HAYMARKET
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HCC News - 14th and March 2024

President's Welcome

On Thursday 8 February 2024 (being the 8th Day of the new lunar year), the Chamber held its **Year of the Dragon Lunar New Year Banquet** in Sydney's Chinatown. Over 400 people, including Chamber members, VIP guests, members of our community and friends of the Chamber, it was a truly wonderful evening of celebration. It was a night to remember. Having chief speech duties, I thank you all for being there to share in the festivities.

Congratulations once again to the City of Sydney for the two week **Sydney Lunar Festival** which was launched in Chinatown on the evening of Saturday, 3 February. The Lunar Festival, the Lunar Parade, Bright Nights the can, Kensington Market is dependent by food and music, cultural and pop performances and the Lunar Parade, which saw over 1,000 people and dragon dancers walk in the line of the Metal Dragon. Then there was the beautiful, Dragon Boat Race on Darling Harbour. Dragon Boat is another Haymarket Chamber of Commerce project with **Haymarket Big**. There were also many other events in Chinatown, including the **Lunar Festival Dragon Boats Races**, and more than 40 associated events. During this period, parts of the City of Sydney were transformed into a vibrant and dragon-focused, and that with **Andrew Bell's** vibrant and colourful dragon design only enhanced the festival. Haymarket Chamber is running along the tracks throughout the Summer. It is a great way to see the City of Sydney and celebration outside of mid-autumn. Lunar can you see the Chamber's Lunar Festival Dragon Boat each year. I am sure to take this opportunity to thank all Council staff who have worked so hard to make the Lunar Festival a success. In particular to **Stephen Gilby** and **Chris Murphy** of the events team. It takes a pioneer to say colleagues and friends, and I know that they are tired and tired, and now this City can see a new team working and ensuring city.

The 8th of March is **International Women's Day** and the theme for this year's observance by the United Nations is "Invest in women: Accelerate progress", a call for action for positive change and progress in achieving and ensuring gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls. Women and girls are supports the continuing global efforts to bridge the existing gaps to ensure a much more equitable and inclusive world for all women and girls. We can all make a difference today, and each day.

Finally, in the middle of all our celebrations, let should also pause a through for those between who, sadly, are not able to celebrate with their loved ones, caught up in natural disasters around the world. A man on one day as Bolan claims of the Lunar New Year, we can all do our bit and take action are as necessary to help bring an end to their suffering without any further and undue delay.

I wish you all a productive and successful month of March. I thank you for your continuing support of our Chamber.

Vincent Ooi
President

Latest News

HCC Year of the Dragon Lunar New Year Banquet on 15 Feb 2024

Our Chamber held its **Year of the Dragon Banquet** at the **Sofitel Restaurant** in Sydney's Chinatown on **Thursday, 15 February 2024** which was attended by over 400 people, including our members, community and friends of the Chamber. What a fantastic celebratory evening it was!

Attendees enjoyed a Asian-based some very special guests that evening including the **Hon. Andrew Giles MP**, Federal Minister for Citizenship, Multicultural Affairs and Settlement, **Hon. Jihad Dib MP**, Member of Parliament of the State of New South Wales, NSW Shadow Minister of Police, Counter Terrorism and Emergency Services, and our special guest of honour, the Consulate General **Hon Zuoxiao Yuchuan HLC**, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural NSW, **Hon. Jenny Leong MP**, **Hon. Tim Ayres**, **Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP**, **Mark Coure MP**, **Matt Cross MP**, **Alex Greenwich MP**, **Jenny Leong MP**, **Anna Sun** MLC & **MP**, **Julie Matthews**, **Lisa Mitchell**, **Michael Pezzutti**, **Tim Ayres**, **Tim Crakanthorp**, Lucien **Cronulla-Sutherland Chris Spiliotis Filmyon**, **Lachlan Lawrence**, **Eleanor Sarrell** and **Linda Scott**, Councillor **Ann Hoang**, Councillor **Henry Wong**, Councillor **Jason Ong**, Councillor **Kerry Zhang**, Deputy Lord Mayor of Sydney **Cathy Gardiner**, CEO of Multicultural NSW **Joseph Lo Bartolo**, NSW Australian of the Year **Dr John Yu AC**, **Chief Commissioner Michael Fuller** of the NSW Police Force, **Commander Paul Crick** of the Force, and **Fire and Rescue Glenwyn Mills**, Commander of Sydney City NSW. We thank them all for the honour bestowed upon us by their attendance.

Congratulations to this year's lucky winners of the **Haymarket Chamber of Commerce Lunar New Year Raffle**: **Ivan Ng** of **Ivan Ng Photography**, the **Chinatown Township Hall** and the **Dragon on Hume** Lots of **Rocell Studio** and **Haymarket Big**. Many impartial prizes have brought a smile to the faces of our lucky winners, and we acknowledge and thank them for their wonderful contribution.

A BIG THANK YOU to our main event sponsors and supporters **Million Wines**, **Community Bank Darling Square** and **Charlie Gerardo Community Bank**, **Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour**, **Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour** and to the drum **JAC Sydney**, **Community Bank**, **Million Wines**, **Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour**, **Charlie Gerardo Community Bank**, **Haymarket & Beam** Lots, **Simply Dumplings**, **Lucy Chinese Cuisine**, **Cosmopolitan**, **AUSIDEAL Group Green**, **Local Space Tours**, **Mr Bubble**, **Ivan Ng Photography**, **Chinatown Township Hall**, **Rocell Restaurants**, **VIP Lanyards** and also to Uncle Michael Jose for his generous welcome to country, the Chay Lee Pot Sun dance troupe, DJ Mean Sand, and the special drummers from Ki Hung Gun Dance & Martial Arts Academy.

We look forward to seeing all of you again at next year's Lunar New Year celebrations.

There are more photos on our Facebook's website. You can also read about our most enjoyable banquet in a post by our at-arms guru, Dominic Hu, on her website website! At HCC's Year of The Dragon Chinese Lunar New Year celebration Banquet.

International Women's Day 2024 – Sydney Women's Fund presents Women's Work

In celebration of the **60th International Women's Day**, we are pleased to share with you the **Sydney Women's Fund** video episode **Women's Work** which is now available on our website.

The Filmmakers, Intermezzo wish to produce the film were **Benjamin Weiss** and **Melissa Chan** and you can view the full line of the image on our website. Sydney Women's Fund is a leading Sydney Women's Fund and its current Grantees. Hope that the impact of the ongoing work.

This episodes are Women's Rising, Women's Health, Women's World and Women's Health.

This is the link of it episodes Sydney Womensworkfilm.org.au/watch-film/

Sydney Lunar Festival, Lunar Streets 10 Feb 2024

Photo: City of Sydney, Katherine Griffiths

A short spell of rain couldn't dampen Lunar New Year celebrations at the Sydney Lunar Festival, Lunar Streets. Thousands of people turned out to celebrate the first day of the new lunar year. More than 20,000 people descended into Chinatown and the wider Haymarket area, with Darling Harbour, Hunter Street and Sussex Street all coming to life through Chinatown to celebrate the Year of the Dragon.

The Dragon on Hume by Haymarket Old and Rocell Studio art installation brought the majestic presence of the Metal Dragon through a live dragon dance, and the Lunar Parade, Bright Nights the can, Kensington Market.

There were roving lion dance performances throughout the evening, with people from all ages and backgrounds being the crowd to take pictures. The launch party marked one of the biggest Lunar New Year celebrations outside of Asia, and certainly the biggest in Great years.

Photo: City of Sydney, Katherine Griffiths

Photo: City of Sydney, Abel Fetnan

Photo: City of Sydney, Abel Fetnan

2024 Sydney Lunar Festival Dragon Boat Races

The **60th Sydney Lunar Festival Dragon Boat Races** held by **Dragon Boats NSW (DBNSW)** was held at **Darling Harbour from 8-10 February 2024**.

Thousands of spectators were there for the Opening Ceremony including Lord Mayor of Sydney Clover Moore, Consul General of China, Zuoxiao Yuchuan and more than 400 Darling Harbour visit that weekend to watch more than 1600 paddles match 8 at the 2024 Festival.

Photo credit: Reg Vertical/Community Bank Darling Square

Chinatown Comedy Club hosted by Soul of Chinatown, 16 Feb 2024

Photo: Angelin Wong/Soul of Chinatown

More than 200 people packed out Chinatown Comedy Club, hosted by Soul of Chinatown, on Friday 16 February. Held at the incredible - or formerly the Harbour City Cinema - it was a fantastic Lunar New Year celebration with a live dance by Yau Kung Moon to kick off the event. The line-up of comedians included **Henry Zhu and Chris Nguyen, Noel Kulhacker, Alex Fung, Gowert Kuar, Henry Zhu and Chris Nguyen.**

As Chinatown's first comedy club, the Chamber is encouraged to see creative initiatives that not only activate Haymarket, but also support local businesses. Look out for the next Chinatown Comedy Club event, which is supported by the City of Sydney.

Photo: Angelin Wong/Soul of Chinatown

Heritage Listing of Sydney Chinatown's Ceremonial Gates - Revolution Passed

Photo: Chris Southwood

For many years, the community and local businesses in Chinatown have been advocating for the heritage listing of the historical and culturally significant ceremonial gates in Sydney's Chinatown.

These gates on both ends of Dixon Street South (south of Goulburn Street) were conceived by the Dixon Street Chinese Committee as part of a broader Dixon Street beautification project in the late 1990s. Designed by the firm, Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects and built by Lend Lease, they were in the Sydney 1999-2000 and Member of the NSW Legislative Council from 1999-2005 using traditional Chinese materials and ornamentation, the gates were completed in 1881 with funds donated by local businesses and community members whose names are inscribed in Chinese on plaques attached to the concrete frames of the gates. On completion, the gates were officially handed over to Sydney City Council by the Dixon Street Chinese Committee.

We are pleased to note that the planning proposal for the heritage listing of the gates was recently approved by the Council of the City of Sydney in a resolution passed on 19 February 2024.

In a recent interview with Sydney Morning Herald on 18 February 2024, *our Chamber's President Vincent Lim said:*

"If these gates are not here, there is really no identifiable Chinatown. It is an important and significant market, just like what the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge are to Sydney."

"However, the even more important reason why they should be heritage listed is to protect them and to gift them to our future generations."

The heritage listing of the Chinatown Gates ensures that the historical and heritage significance will be permanently conserved. This is a culmination of many years of work by many different organisations (including the Haymarket Chamber of Commerce), groups and individuals working closely with the City of Sydney and we thank and express our gratitude to them for their most important contribution. You can access a copy of the Heritage Assessment Report prepared by GML Heritage for the City of Sydney here.

Dixon St upgrade revised concept plan released by the City of Sydney

The City of Sydney recently released its updated Dixon St Upgrade concept design, following extensive community consultation.

The project's scope of works includes the upgrade of Dixon St south between Goulburn and Hay Street, including a feature centuary creative lighting installation stretching the entire street between the ceremonial gates. The project will also include overlay paving, new seating and landscaping, tree preservation and renewal of infrastructure and electrical services to support events.

The concept design - prepared by ASPECT Studios in collaboration with experts in cultural and creative design including Sibling Architecture, Studio Vu and Mu, Lighting Designers Electrolight - was recommended for endorsement by the City's Environment Committee on 4 March, and will be voted on at the full council meeting on Monday 18 March.

The Chamber will continue to be involved in consultation with the City of Sydney about the project, and also bring the latest updates to our members.

Have your say on City of Sydney's new grants for Haymarket

Image: Katherine Griffiths

Two new grants by the City of Sydney for Haymarket will play an important role in supporting projects that strengthen the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the precinct. These grants are a result of the City of Sydney's 2023 consultation and extensive community feedback. The draft Haymarket activation grant guidelines and the Dixon Street improvement guidelines are now open for feedback. If endorsed, these 2 grants will be open for applications later this year.

Haymarket activation grant guidelines

This grant supports a major activation in Haymarket to celebrate Asian culture and attract people to the area. The grant proposes support for 1 major activation per year with a total grant pool of approximately equal to $200,000. The new grant will be open to not-for-profit and for-profit organisations. Find out more and have your say on the draft Haymarket activation grant guidelines **by 5pm on Tuesday 19 March.**

Dixon Street improvement guidelines

This grant supports major capital works to improve shop and building frontages on Dixon Street south in Haymarket. The grant proposes matched funding up to $60,000 per grant for improvements such as façade, sensing and food and beverage shopfront works. The proposed new grants will be open to landowners and business occupants of buildings in the Dixon Street south area. Find out more and have your say on the draft Dixon Street improvement grant guidelines by **5pm on Tuesday 19 March.**

The 2024 Premier's Harmony Dinner- Thursday 14 March 2024

Image: Multicultural NSW

This year the Premier's Harmony Dinner will be held on Thursday 14 March 2024, at ICC Sydney.

Each year, this dinner is hosted by the Minister for Multiculturalism in the presence of the Premier and Leader of the Opposition to celebrate the practical contributions made by multicultural leaders in NSW. The highlight of the event is the announcement of the outstanding recipients of the Premier's Multicultural Community Medals and inductees to the Multicultural Honour Roll being exceptional individuals who have played an instrumental role in shaping our harmonious society.

The Chamber is pleased that it will be represented at this very special community event by members of our Executive Committee.

New Members

Linda Low, Aussie Mortgage Partners

Linda Low is the founder of Aussie Mortgage Partners which was established in 2014.

Tailored for busy professionals, Linda understands the value of your time and the importance of achieving significant outcomes in property investment and securing your home.

Linda's expertise is not just in navigating the complex landscape of home loans but in crafting solutions that align with your unique professional and personal aspirations. With a passion in property, financial planning, and over a decade within the mortgage industry, Linda brings a wealth of knowledge to the table.

Linda is committed to delivering service that goes beyond the transaction. She is here to guide you through every step of the loan process, ensuring clear communication and tailored advice. Whether you are stepping into your first home or expanding your investment portfolio, her goal is to always secure the best possible outcome for you.

William Dong, Link Business

William Dong is a dedicated advocate for business owners seeking to exit and unlock the true value of their endeavours by successfully selling their businesses.

With a lifelong innovation in the world of retail businesses, William's journey has been characterized by building, launching and expanding a multi-site service business and orchestrating multiple business acquisitions and sales over the past two decades.

William's forte lies in cultivating business growth, and he channels his vast experience to assist fellow business owners in optimizing their enterprises for exceptional results and connecting them with the ideal buyers. His ethos centers on aligning with businesses with unique particular needs and lifestyle, and in doing so, allowing them to have confidence in their purchase decisions.

William specializes in selling import, wholesale, distribution and service businesses. He gets every business sale done with energy and passion.

Chinese Youth League of Australia

Founded in 1938, Chinese Youth League of Australia (CYL) is an organisation with a proud history of providing welfare, culture and sporting activities for the Chinese and the wider community.

Today it is one of the oldest Chinese Community organisations in existence in Australia.

The objectives of CYL are to promote Chinese cultural activities, foster friendship and goodwill between Australia and China, undertake welfare and charitable work, organise recreational and sports activities and participate in community activities to promote Australian multiculturalism.

Located in Sydney's Chinatown, they have long-term active subgroups including Poet Lion & Dragon Group, Dragon Boat Group, Cantonese Opera Group, Cultural Dance Group, Art Troupe, Wushu Group, Tai Chi Group, Table Tennis Group and Recreation Group. They also offer calligraphy, Chinese painting and yoga classes.

You are most welcome to join them for any of these activities.

HCC on social media

The Chamber is on social media, including Facebook and Instagram. Please keep up to date with the latest news from Haymarket and give us a follow and like!

JOIN HCC

If you would like to join the Haymarket Chamber of Commerce as a member, or would like to have more information about us, please visit our website at https://haymarketchamber.org.au/

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