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(with Mrs Leila Chin)
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Mr Norm Chin
(with Mr Neville Jones)
Junior Lion Dance Troupe
Mr Wayne Lo
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Mr Jeremy Chin
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Mr Paul Ho
Temple Officer
Mr Mervyn Chin

2016 Chung Wah Seniors Group
Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea

Friday 3rd June 2016 - 10.00am till 2.00pm
Chung Wah Hall, 25 Woods St, Darwin (next to the Chinese Temple)

Donations of Cakes, Sweet or Savoury Treats
will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Melanie on
0412903980 ah or Austin on 0413998082 anytime.

Please come along with friends, family or workmates
for a cuppa and something to eat to help our Senior’s
efforts to raise funds for a most worthy cause!

Cancer Council Australia's Biggest Morning Tea
MY EASTER WEEKEND IN BENDIGO
By Patrick Chin

This year, the lion and dragon dance troupe made their way to Bendigo for the 2016 Easter Festival. Not being there since 2011, this was the troupe’s 3rd visit to the festival and the first time that we stayed at Bendigo South East College with the other visiting performing teams, namely the Chinese Youth Society of Melbourne, Hung Gar Yau Shu (Melbourne) and the Chinese Youth League (Sydney). Members from the Bendigo Chinese Association Lion Team also visited us frequently at the school.

To get to Bendigo, the troupe aimed to raise $10,000 to pay for their flights but, with a lot of hard work, managed to raise $12,500 with an additional $5,000 government grant (the other $5000 of the grant going towards the Jade Dragons). Nearly doubling the fundraising goal, this sum couldn’t have been reached without the Bendigo committee’s hard work in organising it all. To fundraise the money, the troupe sold boxes of chocolates, held a raffle, a quiz night and held multiple barbeques at Bunnings and Harvey Norman.

Down in Bendigo, on Friday night, we had our first run through of our performance back at the gym using the trestles provided down there as these trestles were much different to our own, being not only shorter, but narrower and easier to tip over. The trestles were also waxed, making them slide easily over each other which made it harder to execute our jumps. Fortunately, as we had extra dancers from interstate, we had four of the dancers to permanently sit underneath the trestle structure and hold them to make sure they didn’t slide. Over the weekend festivities, the troupe had 5 performances which were the main performance, 2 parades, a collaborative performance with the Jade Dragons and Guan Yin’s birthday celebration.

Staying at the school with the other teams over the weekend allowed us to bond with them and learn about the other troupes around Australia. Additionally, we got to hang out with many people who all shared a common interest with us of lion dancing. This allowed us to share stories of personal experiences around lion dancing.

At the main performance, the camaraderie from our fellow lion dancers showed not only when they cheered on other troupes for their jumps, but when they cheered even louder when a pair got back up when they missed a jump.

The atmosphere was incredible, tens of thousands of people at the parades in awe of what they were seeing, particularly at the sight of Sun Loong, the longest Imperial Dragon in the southern hemisphere. Guan Yin’s birthday at Bendigo’s temple showed us how the other troupes conducted a blessing and paid their respects, compared to our own style.

It wasn’t over after the performances though, after the main parade on Easter Sunday, the Chinese Youth League of Australia and Hung Gar Yau Shu martial arts school hosted a series of workshops for jumping, a game to teach anticipation of the next move, drumming and trying to balance on the Chinese Youth League’s large metal ball they used in their performance. With one of the most popular workshops being trying to balance on the ball, many dancers went back to trying it after the end of the workshops.

On Easter Monday, after travelling back to Melbourne, the Chinese Youth Society of Melbourne hosted a training session where we learnt some new skills for moving the lion head as well as combinations. The training session ended with a delicious serve of Korean fried chicken delivered to us as we were about to leave to the airport.

Overall, the experiences in Bendigo were amazing, with some of the troupe calling it an adventure of a lifetime with the crowds being ecstatic. We were able to showcase our skills and witness other lion dancers perform unbelievable tricks, forged many new friendships with fellow lion dancers from all around Australia and were able to learn new moves to use in future performances.

Lastly the Lion and Dragon Dance Troupe would like to thank everyone who supported us on our trip to Bendigo this year.
The Lion Dance Troupe would like to thank all the supporters who helped get us down to Bendigo this Easter.

There was a lot of hard work involved, and many people contributed long hours and also donated towards the fund raising effort.

All members of the troupe are volunteers, which makes every contribution extremely important, be it donations of goods, prizes, or simply helping out in any of the many events we held during the past year.

With your help, we managed to raise over $12000. This meant that the trip was able to be funded without out-of-pocket expenses to the troupe members.

Our trip wouldn't have been successful without the generous support of all those involved.
TEMPLE LION RETURNED TO THE TERRITORY

In September late last year (2015), I was contacted by Mrs Joy Davis in an email sent to the Chung Wah Society. She informed me that her brother was the Late Fred Drysdale MLA who died in office. She added that Fred Drysdale happened to be the person who proposed Harry Chan for the post of President of the Legislative Council so many years ago. As we all know, Harry Chan was eventually elected as the first Chinese Mayor of Darwin. Harry Chan was held in such high esteem that a bust of Harry sits in the main entrance of Parliament House to this very day.

Apparently Joy’s niece, Linda Haskins whilst visiting the Bendigo Joss House with her husband Neville mentioned to a volunteer at the Joss House named Michael that she was from Darwin. On hearing that, Michael then informed them that they held a wooden lion ornament that was donated to the Bendigo Joss house some time ago. Michael had researched the Lion ornament on the internet and from a photo from the Northern Territory Library archives discovered that the Lion was actually from the Brocks Creek Joss House.

It is suggested by Joy that perhaps the Lion was looted from the Brocks Creek Joss House by soldiers after it was destroyed during World War II, “this was not unusual during times of war.” She also suggested that at a later date perhaps the person found it too cumbersome and threw it away or he may have died years later and the family tossed it out and later found and eventually given to the Bendigo Joss House.

We will never really know how it ended up in Bendigo, all we know is that it did. Joy said that she felt that the Lion’s place was back in the Territory where it belongs. Joy went on to say, “like me, who was born here, he (the Lion) wouldn’t like the cold down south anyway.”

In response to Joy’s email that I was going to visit Bendigo for the Easter Festival in 2016 and that I have since contacted Mr Darren Wright, the Bendigo Joss House supervisor regarding the return of the “Lion”.

Anyway, during our recent visit to Bendigo, we went to meet Darren Wright and Michael at the Bendigo Joss House where the “Lion” was officially handed over to me as President of the Chung Wah Society to “return it home” … back to the Northern Territory where it belongs.

I have attached a photo taken by my wife Melanie of Darren handing the “Lion” over to me outside the Bendigo Joss House. As we had taken so many photos in Bendigo, we never had a chance to see the photo until we got back home to Darwin, I must mention that the photo has not been touched up or “photo shopped” …..”were the Gods showing us a sign”, what do you think !.
SilkAir Early Morning Flights Are Back!

SilkAir Darwin Morning flights aim to give passengers better connections to its network of Southeast Asian destinations with optimized timing. Connecting to Southeast Asia has never been more convenient as SilkAir, the Regional Wing of Singapore Airlines brings back their much anticipated early morning flights commencing 30 May 2016.

Tuesday and Friday flights commencing 30 May 2016 will depart from Darwin at 02:55am arriving in Singapore at 06:15am providing excellent connection to destinations like Bangkok, Medan, Penang, Phnom Pen, Phuket, Siem Reap, Haneda and Yogyakarta.

This will make it possible for families and holiday makers to have shorter transit times in Singapore and arrive at their destinations within the day. Travellers departing Darwin transiting in Singapore to Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam will enjoy this new schedule taking advantage of more time in the Southeast Asian exotic locations. Passengers flying out on Fridays will have a choice of the early morning or afternoon flights depending on their destinations.

We at SilkAir Darwin would like to extend a special thank you to everyone who attended the Territory Taste Festival, 16-17 April, Darwin Convention Centre. It is genuinely touching to see the power of a community in action and experiencing an event celebrating the Territory spirit. May we all continue to contribute into this great Territory we call home.
Darwin Chinese Temple
The Chinese Year of the Monkey – 2016

FESTIVALS at the TEMPLE

Saturday 16th July  
Lo Bun Official services at 0800 hours

Friday 22nd July  
Kwan Yin Official services at 0800 hours

Wednesday 27th July 
Kwan Sing Di Official services at 0800 hours

Wednesday 24th August 
Toy Buk Sing Goon Official services at 0800 hours

Wednesday 7th September  
Ho Wong Official services at 0800 hours

Wednesday 15th October  
Kwan Yin Official services at 0800 hours

Friday 26th October 
Wah Kwong Official services at 0800 hours

Other Festivals

Sunday 3rd April -  
Ching Ming Festival (Actual Date – Monday 4th April) 
Official service at Memorial Chapel at 0900 hours, Then at the Chinese Memorial Cemetery – Stuart Park

Tuesday 16th August -  
Yee Lun Festival 
Official service at Memorial Chapel at 1930 hours, Then in the open space between the hall and Temple

Other Festivals Observed

Thursday 9th June  
Dragon Boat Festival  
No Official service at Temple

Thursday 15th September 
Moon Festival  
No Official service at Temple

Wednesday 21st December  
Doong Festival  
No Official service at Temple

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