

The next edition of *The Islander* will be published on
Friday 18th September 2015
 All items/materials must be received by
4.00pm on Mon. 14 August 2015

6th September 2015



12th September 2015



18th September 2015



26th September 2015



27th September 2015



Chinese Consul General and the WA Chamber of Commerce Visits Christmas Island

Dr Huang Qinguo, the Chinese Consul - General to Western Australia along with the President and Vice-President of the WA Chinese Chamber of Commerce Mr Khoon Tan and Mr Eddie Kwah visited Christmas Island from the 22nd - 25th August at the invitation of Christmas Island Phosphates. The delegation's purpose was to learn about the people and culture of Christmas Island as well as investigate investment prospects and opportunities for economic diversification.

At the reception dinner on the 23rd at the Chinese Literary Association, Consul General Huang expressed a hope that the recent closeness in China and Australia's relationships through the development of the China - Australia Free Trade Agreement would also bring opportunities to Christmas Island.

Mr Khoon Tan expressed a similar view, saying that he hoped to be able to learn more about Christmas Island over the next two days to be able to bring positive information back to the WA Chinese Chamber of Commerce, developers and entrepreneurs.



Above: CI Kung Fu Club Lion Dance at the welcome reception at the Chinese Literary Association



From left to right: Susan Ong, Li Hong, Eddie Kwah, Khoon Tan, Dr Huang Qin Guo and Du Ling at the Shire Chambers

The Shire of Christmas Island welcomed the delegation on the 24th along with the Administrator Barry Haase and CIP directors Lai Ah Hong and Clive Brown. The Shire gave an in-depth presentation of the Local Planning Strategy and Town Planning Scheme plans showing the Shire's commitment to an organised approach to new urban development. Through the Local Government Act (WA) (CI) and regulations, these plans and schemes were only finalised by the Shire after wide community input to ensure that the final zones decided on were vetted and supported by the majority of residents and stakeholders on island. The presentation showed sites for potential high end resort/casino complexes, agricultural and eco developments.



Consul General and staff with Councillors and PRL executives

New urban development will be facilitated by administrative progress on two items; firstly the Minister's gazettal of the Shire Local Planning Strategy and Town Planning Scheme 2 documents (which would provide the legal framework for developers to submit plans for development) and secondly, the creation of the Crown Land Release Ordinance to access the large amount of Christmas Island that is vacant Unallocated Crown Land and land that is currently under mining lease. This Commonwealth land takes up much of the eastern seaboard and contains some exceptional sites with great potential for tourism development and agriculture.

The delegation called on CIDHS, toured the mine operations and visited several areas in the National Park. Dr Huang conveyed a deep respect for the closeness of the Christmas Island people, unspoiled waters and forest.



Consul-General Huang and the Malay Association Kompang and Silat team at the reception function at the CLA

