



The Islander



Christmas Island Community Newsletter

Berita
Masyarakat
Pulau Krismas

島筒
民訊

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Happy Chinese New Year 2016



GONG XI FA CAI



From the Councillors and Shire of Christmas Island

The Year of the Monkey 2016

In the Chinese Lunar Calendar, which is associated with the Chinese Zodiac, 2016 is the year of the Fire Monkey. The year begins on the 8th of February 2016 and ends on the 27th of January 2017. The monkey is the 9th sign of the 12 year cycle of animals that appear in the Chinese Zodiac. Those born in the year of the monkey are said to be clever, smart and intelligent, especially in their career and wealth. They are lively, flexible, quick-witted and versatile. In addition, their gentleness and honesty bring them an everlasting love life.

For newcomers to the Island, Chinese New Year lasts for 15 days and begins on the eve of the new year, Sunday 7th February 2016 with a Family Reunion Dinner, this is an important time where the families gather together to start the celebrations with a feast. Everyone is welcome to the Poon Saan Club on this night to celebrate in the opening festivities with the Chinese Community, please see the flyer inside for details. The next fortnight is spent visiting the temples, visiting friends and relatives exchanging gifts of Ang Pows (A monetary gift in a red envelope), giving mandarins or oranges as a symbolism of "gold", it has an auspicious meaning of bringing in good luck and wealth. The Lion Dance performs around the Island and you will hear the drummers, the celebrations continue until the 15th night, being Sunday 21st February, where there will be a closing celebration, the Chap Goh Mei (Lantern Festival) at the CLA Foreshore.

**May the Chinese New Year 2016 bring good health,
wealth and be a prosperous year for all.**



Return of Baby Crabs. Photo: Yvonne McKenzie



AUSTRALIA DAY BIG BREAKFAST & Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards 2016



There was a large turn out at the Community Hall last Tuesday 26th January 2016 for the Australia Day Big Breakfast and Premier's Citizenship Awards. The community gathered for a traditional Aussie breakfast of sausages and eggs before the Citizenship Ceremony and the Awards presentation commenced.

Chew Boon Beng, Community Services Manager, welcomed the community and introduced the Shire President Mr Gordon Thomson, who invited Soroush Sharifi, Juliane Greiner and Passang Sherpa on stage to take their pledges to become Australian Citizens. Congratulations to the new citizens. Mr Thomson then continued with a speech thanking Teresa Hendren for her selfless service to the community, and then presented her with the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award. Congratulations Teresa.



Ken and Rocco



Wei and Joel



Kim Song, Chau Ling, Rostyna and Barry Haase



Mr Barry Haase



*Congratulations to the
Premier's Citizenship Award
Recipient: Teresa Hendren*



*Congratulations to the New Australian Citizens
L-R: Passang Sherpa, Soroush Sharifi and Juliane Greiner*



Azmi, Jackie, Wayne, Maimon and Othman