



The Islander



Christmas Island Community Newsletter

Berita 高筒
Masyarakat 民訊
Pulau Krismas

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UPCOMING EVENTS



International Women's Day

Buffet Dinner
Tuesday 8th March
CLA
6.30pm



Harmony Day
FRIDAY 18th MARCH
2016
6.30PM
POON SAAN
COMMUNITY HALL



MINTOPE
COMMUNITY FIELD WALK

SATURDAY
19th MARCH 2016
4.00pm



UCIW
Union Day Celebration

Sunday
20th March 2016

Union Office
6.30pm



2016 Chinese New Year of the Monkey "Chap Goh Meh" 21st February 2016

Thank you to all who came to celebrate with the CLA on our annual Chinese New Year "Chap Goh Meh 2016" on Sunday 21st February 2016. It was certainly a great turnout!! The night begun with the lions first offering prayers at the temple, from there they moved their way down the steps to the CLA

foreshore, made their way through the crowd and presented the sponsors with mandarins. It was a fantastic performance by the CI Kung Fu Club. Our sponsors were then given gift bags before they each wrote a wish and lit a lantern that floated away in the night sky. Thank you to the AFP, Pete, David, the Fire Brigade team and Border security who were there to ensure that everything went smoothly with the sky lantern lighting. The night continued with performances from Kyle, Wei and our very own local band, Frontline. The CLA would like to thank and acknowledge our sponsors: CIP, DIRD, Shire, Serco, CIDHS, Travel Exchange, Ackers, Boong Trading, Metro Supermarket and Meng Chong Trading. Thank you to our volunteers Suzane Chan, Jeannie Ku, Kim Lai, Janet Kho, Koon Yong, Keow Lee, May Foong, Patricia, Kelly Lim, Kelly Lam, Aini, Siew Ping, Jude and Celine DeCruz for their invaluable support.

Article by CLA



Photo courtesy of Isaac Tan

Chinese Literary
Association
Christmas Island

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SATURDAY 19th MARCH 2016 MINTOPE COMMUNITY FIELD WALK



In November 2015 the MINTOPE team prepared a new site for agricultural research called Airport 5 off Lily beach road with a shared entrance to Airport 4. Many days have been spent with the tractor and the CIP grader to transform the land after mining. Shaping the field with suitable open drains and contour banks and long hours spent rock picking, all before the start of the rain season.

The MINTOPE team came back for a solid sowing campaign in January 2016 and many crops have now successfully emerged from the ground as Roger and Gwen discovered when observing the new variety of grain, Sorghum was introduced to test its potential for animal feed.



Roger and Gwen in the Sorghum Field at the MINTOPE Airport 4 site - Photo Chris Su.

The MINTOPE scientists and agronomists will return for a second round of sowing in the third week of March and they are taking this opportunity to invite everyone interested in the science or simply to view the crops progressing on a FIELD WALK starting at Airport 5 on Saturday 19th March, 4.00pm.

MINTOPE has obtained a temporary license to cultivate for the first time ever, industrial hemp on Christmas Island. It is a non-narcotic strain of the marijuana plant family that has historical uses in fabric, ropes and assorted materials. This new research is in line with MINTOPE's stated intention to focus on high yield high return plants such as lemon grass, pepper, vanilla, coffee, ylang ylang, sweet scented geranium, vetiver, chia and sandalwood. The MINTOPE team will welcome further discussion with members of the Community after the field walk.

For more information contact Hervé Calmy: 0457804266.

Please see pages 10-11 for Chinese and Malay translations of this article.