



For Immediate Release
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**CHINESE CULTURAL FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE
MULTICULTURALISM ON THE COAST**

The 2016 Chinese Cultural Festival, supported by the Wallarah 2 Coal Project, is set to be bigger than ever this year, with the colourful cultural festival to be held on Sunday 18 September, at the Memorial Park at The Entrance.

The annual event is organised by the China Australia Friendship Association and aims to promote harmony and embrace the strong Chinese community on the Coast, as well as provide a platform for other local cultural groups living in the area to come together.

For four years running, the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation Grant program has provided funding to ensure this valuable event has the resources it needs to celebrate multiculturalism across the region and this year is no exception.

The Chinese Cultural Festival has become an integral part of the Central Coast calendar, but relies heavily on in-kind support and grant funding. Ruby Eaton, President of the China Australia Friendship Association and Festival Conveyor is delighted to have the continued support of Wallarah 2 and the local community.

“This is the fourth year Wallarah 2 has sponsored this special event and the sixth year that the Chinese Cultural Festival has taken place on the Central Coast.

“The funding of \$2,000 will play an important role in enabling us to make this year’s festival an enjoyable event for locals of all ages, with entertainment, family activities, cultural performances, lion dancing and eye drawing as well as an abundance of cultural stalls.

“Also we are adding a new element to this year's festival and have organised the Qipao flash mob for the day. Qipao is the Chinese famous traditional lady dress, which is very colourful, elegant and graceful and will be an exciting new addition to the entertainment line-up.

“We are also excited to have an artistic troupe from Guilin Guanxi province who will be performing at the festival,” added Ruby.

Wallarrah 2 hope the funding provided to the China Australia Friendship Association will assist the group to build awareness of the various cultural groups in the local area, as well as promote community harmony and tolerance.

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Peter Smith, Environment and Community Manager of the Wallarah 2 Coal Project said, “Events such as this are important for sharing the unique characteristics of the varied cultures and backgrounds of locals in our community.

“Our support through the Community Foundation aims to bolster programs and initiatives such as this, which benefit the Wyong and wider Central Coast community.

“It is wonderful to see the myriad of cultural offerings planned for the festival as locals join together to experience Chinese dancing and cultural performances, art showcases, amazing food as well as stalls displaying modern and traditional products”, explained Peter.

With the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation grant application process now closed, nine grants in total have been presented to support organisations that benefit the Wyong area. For further information, please visit www.wallarrah.com.au.

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For more information, interviews or photos:

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