MEDIA RELEASE

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Chinese Cultural Festival Celebrates Culture on the Coast

Now in its fifth year, the 2015 Chinese Cultural Festival, supported by the Wallarah 2 Coal Project, is set to celebrate culture on the Central Coast in Memorial Park at The Entrance on Sunday 13 September.

For three year's 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.

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

The success of the event each year relies heavily on in-kind support and grant funding. In offering a hand to the China Australia Friendship Association, Wallarah 2 hope the funding helps to build awareness of the various cultural groups in the local area, as well as promote community harmony and tolerance.

Ruby Eaton, President of the China Australia Friendship Association and Festival Conveyor said, "We are very thankful for the support provided by Wallarah 2. This grant funding will play an important role in enabling us to make this year's festival even bigger and better. In fact, this year we are anticipating between 6,000 and 8,000 people to join us at The Entrance for the festival.

"We are also excited to have Chinese performers from the Hubei Provence travelling to Australia for this event, with a highlight of the day set to be the Chinese lion dancers, who are very important in Chinese culture and are believed to bring good luck and keep evil away.

"There is a strong sense of community on the Central Coast and our festival aims to embrace this value and create a shared sense of identity that celebrates our multiculturalism and diversity," said Ruby.

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

"Our grant program aims to bolster programs and initiatives such as this, which benefit the wider Wyong 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 product and wares", explained Peter.

The Wallarah 2 Community Foundation grant application process is now closed. 14 grants are being presented to support organisations that benefit the Wyong Local Government Area. For further information see www.wallarah.com.au.
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For more information, interviews or photos:
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