



Dear friends of CPBA,

The Year of the Water Dragon is upon us, and represents one of the most auspicious years in the Chinese calendar. Coming just a few days before Australia Day, we will have double the reason to celebrate! Here is a sampling of the various celebrations happening around town, starting this weekend.

Chinese New Year "Eve", Box Hill (Saturday, January 21st)

Street Festival in Box Hill Mall from 3pm till 3am the next day. There will be dragons, lions and entertainment in the lead up to midnight, and this is traditionally a good opportunity to pick up some last minute New Year decorations and gifts. This is a free event.

CNY Festival in Springvale (Sunday, January 22nd)

The largest festival in the City of Greater Dandenong's calendar, this is a street festival with cultural performances and entertainment from 9am to 9pm. Another free event.

CNY Dragon Boat races, World Trade Centre Wharf, Melbourne (Sunday January 22nd)

Come witness this unique sport, with races from 9am to 4pm, and entertainment from 12 to 2pm. Free event.

Crown Dragon Atrium Display (January 20th to February 5th)

The Musical Atrium at the Crown will be transformed with a brilliant Golden Dragon reaching for a flaming fireball (symbol of wisdom, abundance and prosperity). Free admission.

Crown Riverside Hawkers Bazaar (January 27-29th)

This year's event will see the "Dragon Tenors" performing, as well as the Melbourne Guzheng Ensemble. Lots of food and activities for the family.

CPBA CNY Dinner, Templestowe (Saturday, January 28th)

This is a family event, with a 9 course banquet and a live band. For details and bookings, please contact David Chow (0419 309 168).

CNY Festival in Chinatown (Sunday, January 29th)

The Millennium Dragon will be parading Chinatown, and there will be many cultural performances and lion dances throughout the day and night (10am to 8pm). This is a free event.

CNY at the Chinese Museum, Cohen Place, Chinatown (Sunday, January 29th)

To celebrate the New Year, the Museum is offering free admission on this day. This is also the home of the Millennium Dragon, which will make its appearance at 11.30am.

CNY Charity Ball (Saturday, February 4th)

Over 400 generous patrons will be celebrating in style at the Crown Palladium - this is a black tie event, and proceeds this year will go to the Royal Flying Doctors. There are just a few tickets left - reply to this email if you are interested.

CNY & Lantern Festival, Kingsway, Glen Waverley (Sunday, February 5th)

Similar in format to the other Street Festivals, it celebrates the last day of the CNY period. A unique feature is the Lion Dance on high poles, with performances at 12pm and 6pm. The festival goes from 11am to 8pm, and is a free event.

Lots to do, so little time - I trust you will have a good celebration ahead!

Felix Wong *GAICD*
President CPBA