

MEDIA RELEASE February 2015

CELEBRATE EXOTIC FLAVOURS, MUSIC, DANCE AND ART AT FREE DARLING HARBOUR CULTURE BEATS 2015

The celebration of Australia's cultural diversity continues at Darling Harbour in 2015, with a **FREE** and fun-filled program showcasing the exotic flavours, dance, music and art of nations including China, Thailand, Pakistan, Armenia and India.

Presented by cultural groups from around NSW in partnership with Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, **Darling Harbour Culture Beats** is part of a dynamic line-up of regular events that attract more than 26 million people to Darling Harbour each year and provide an important contribution to the NSW visitor economy.

From Chinese New Year festivities in February to Thai, Pakistani, Armenian and Indian festivals in March and Buddha's Birthday in May, Darling Harbour Culture Beats brings beauties of the world to Darling Harbour.

The sights and sounds of Asia remain in the spotlight as part of an ongoing two-week long **Chinese New Year festival (13 Feb – 1 Mar)** with the spotlight on Darling Harbour's beautiful Chinese Garden of Friendship. Celebrations in the Garden include, fan dances, Tai chi and calligraphy. And throughout Darling Harbour, the festivities continue with dragon boat races on Cockle Bay, firework displays and the Chinese Lantern Carnival illuminating the Urban Stream.

The **Thai Grand Festival, 14–15 March** will surely entice with spicy curries, live music and live dance recounting Thai folklore; before the **Pakistan Folk Music and Cultural Festival on Sunday 22 March** at Palm Grove, where foods and traditions from a wide-range of Pakistani regions will be celebrated.

Also on **Sunday 22 March, the Armenian Festival** will see a lively day of dance, music and entertainment at Darling Harbour. Families can relish in the tastes of delicious Armenian food and drink while watching traditional dancers bring the Duduk and Zourna to life. A talented line-up of Armenian community guests from the fields of business, sport and entertainment will also showcase their skills live at Tumbalong Park.

A grand festival of colour, friendship and harmony will be displayed on **Saturday 28 March, when Holi Mahotsav** will feature at Darling Harbour Culture Beats. With flavoursome vegetarian Indian food, craft stalls and art workshops, the festival will also showcase Indian live music and a range of dance performances from contemporary to classic, folk and belly dance.

After a month's recess (during [Nomanslanding*](#)), Darling Harbour Culture Beats will return for a celebration of **Buddha's Birthday, 9–10 May** at Tumbalong Park. Marking the birthday of the founder of Buddhism, Sakyamuni Buddha, the event will include Buddhist exhibitions, ceremonies and performances as well as a selection of arts, crafts and vegetarian food stalls.

For more information about **FREE Darling Harbour Culture Beats 2015** program, visit darlingharbour.com. Also check-out Darling Harbour on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

* *NoMansLanding* is a major installation and public program that tells the story of Darling Harbour and WW1, 2 Apr–3 May 2015. See darlingharbour.com.

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PROGRAM

DARLING HARBOUR CULTURE BEATS 2015 PROGRAM FEBRUARY–MAY	
DATE	HEADLINE
13 February – 1 March	<p>CHINESE NEW YEAR AT CHINESE GARDEN OF FRIENDSHIP</p> <p>Celebrate Chinese New Year with a two-week cultural festival of performances, demonstrations, workshops and tours – most of which are free with garden entry! Take part in a traditional tea ceremony or delight in having your tea leaves read. Learn the delicate art of penjing and slow down for a tai chi class and more.</p> <p>FREE with garden entry</p> <p>Chinese Garden of Friendship, Southern end of Darling Harbour</p>
19–22 February	<p>CHINESE NEW YEAR LANTERN CARNIVAL</p> <p>Thousands of spectacular hand-made lanterns will meet the water to create a magical wonderland. Enjoy traditional performance and arts, from the dragon and lion dance to shadow puppetry, a tea ceremony, calligraphy and taste delicious flavours from China at a range of food stalls.</p> <p>FREE</p> <p>Darling Harbour, 10am–10pm 19–21 Feb / 10am–5pm 22 Feb</p>

22 February	<p>CHINESE NEW YEAR PARADE, FLOAT DISPLAY AND FIREWORKS</p> <p>Come on a discovery of all things Sheep during the City of Sydney's magical Twilight Parade. This parade finishes in Darling Harbour with a lively fireworks display on Cockle Bay and a brief exhibition of Parade Floats in Darling Quarter until after midnight.</p> <p>FREE</p> <p>8pm – Midnight</p>
28 February – 1 March	<p>CHINESE NEW YEAR DRAGON BOAT RACES</p> <p>Dragon Boat Racing has a special place in Chinese culture, with modern day racing representing patriotism and integrity. Get close to the action in Cockle Bay and admire the unique painting and carvings as these amazing vessels race by.</p> <p>FREE</p> <p>9am–4pm, Cockle Bay, Darling Harbour</p>
14–15 March	<p>THAI GRAND FESTIVAL</p> <p>Revel in the Thai Grand Festival at Darling Harbour with traditional music, food, culture and dance. Enjoy live dance recounting Thai folklore, accompanied by live music. Feast on your favourite flavours or try something new at the enticing selection of food stalls.</p> <p>FREE</p> <p>11am–8pm, Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour</p>
22 March	<p>PAKISTAN FOLK MUSIC AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL</p> <p>Discover Pakistan with a cultural program that includes enthralling folk performances from the different provinces of Pakistan as well as cultural tableaux presented by children representing the different regions of Pakistan - Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, Balochistan, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Balistan.</p> <p>FREE</p> <p>11am–5pm, Palm Grove</p>

22 March	<p>ARMENIAN FESTIVAL</p> <p>Delight in a lively day of dance, music and entertainment for the whole family at the Armenian Festival. Taste a wide selection of traditional Armenian food and drink while watching talented performers and dancers bringing the Duduk and Zourna to life and talented Armenian guests across the fields of business, sport and entertainment showcase their skills.</p> <p>FREE</p> <p>12 noon–8pm, Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour</p>
28 March	<p>HOLI MAHOTSAV</p> <p>Discover Holi Mahotsav, a grand festival of colour, friendship and harmony. Enjoy delicious vegetarian Indian food, craft stalls and art workshops.</p> <p>Revel in the beauty of live music and a range of dance performances, from contemporary to classic, folk and belly dancing.</p> <p>FREE</p> <p>12pm–8pm, Tumbalong Park</p>
9–10 May	<p>BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL</p> <p>Celebrate the birthday of Sakyamuni Buddah, the founder of Buddhism. Enjoy exhibitions, ceremonies and performances as well as a selection of arts, crafts and vegetarian food stalls.</p> <p>FREE</p> <p>10am – 5pm, Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour</p>

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