

EXPLORE YOUR GOOD FORTUNE THIS LUNAR NEW YEAR AT DARLING HARBOUR

Year of The Pig Symbolises Wealth and Fortune

Darling Harbour is the perfect destination to celebrate Lunar New Year with a range of performances, and activities to celebrate the Year of the Pig.

Begin the mystical journey of the Year of the Pig by witnessing live calligraphy art on two **Year of the Pig Inflatable Art** installations on Saturday 2 February and Sunday 3 February. Master Dong Yang, a Chinese-Australian calligrapher, will transform each giant inflatable pink pig live with his work over the opening weekend, showcasing various New Year's greetings and images. Don't forget your phone to snap a pic!

The opening celebrations continue with a colourful and interactive **traditional Chinese Lion Dance** at The Chinese Garden of Friendship on Saturday 2 February. The opening will be free to the public with Garden entry. The lion dance embraces the beauty, art, culture, traditions and history of China. The lion's gestures and movements closely mimic the emotion of the mystical animal, with all performances telling a story through dance. The dances are also said to bring good luck and fortune. There will also be **further roving lion dances** around various places in Darling Harbour over the following two weekends.

Local hip hop and urban dance groups will battle it out at the Pier Street Underpass as part of the **Lunar Block Party** on the first weekend of celebrations. The event will see DJ's pumping tunes, fun workshops and performances from 12pm to 5pm. Make a day of it and pop by the **Mahjong forecourt** beforehand to learn how to play the exciting traditional Chinese game. Each day from 10am on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 February, there will be Mahjong boards set up at the Chinese Garden of Friendship forecourt for visitors to play or observe the professionals.

Don't miss out on the popular **Dragon Boat Races** that see the spirit and power of the dragon come alive, as 12-metre long boats battle it out to the beating of drums! The race is the biggest of its kind in the southern hemisphere, with more than 3,000 paddlers racing, as well as thousands of spectators. Head to the races early to grab a spot at **Cockle Bay** and watch the Taoist monks as they bless the water and perform a unique eye dotting ceremony: dabbing red paint onto the eyes of each boat's figurehead, which is said to awaken the dragons. The Dragon Boat Races will take place on Saturday 9 February from 8am to 5pm and Sunday 10 February from 8.30am to 3pm.

Tumbalong Park will be home to the **Chinese New Year Lantern Festival** from Thursday 14 February to Monday 18 February. This year features lanterns representing the Great Wall of China. The festival will also feature market stalls selling Chinese food, cultural workshops, colourful performances by acrobatic artists from China, and the giant Zodiac lanterns lighting up the park at night. Bring the whole family for a night of fun from 7pm to 11pm each day.

Sydney-born, Chinese-Australian artist, **Chris Yee**, will be hosting an exhibition of new and existing work presented by **4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art**. The installation of tapestries hanging throughout The Garden embrace a sense of place and reflect Yee's perspective of Chinese-Australian culture and communities.

Continuing the creative theme of Lunar New Year, The Chinese Garden of Friendship will showcase performances, demonstrations, and workshops, including calligraphy and brush painting, tours and more over two weeks from Saturday 2 February. In celebration of the Year of the Pig, kids will be able to take part in workshops, creating **Pig Masks** and **Piggy Paper Puppets** they can play with to tell people's fortunes. There will also be Astrology Readings from Mina Zheng, a Feng Shui Master who will guide visitors through an uplifting talk about the Lunar New Year, followed by 5 to 10-minute individual private readings for guests of the Garden. Be sure to try the newly opened **The Gardens by Lotus**. With

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a brand new specially-designed Chinese menu, flavours include traditional Chinese dishes with a modern Australian touch in a unique oasis-like atmosphere.

Partnering with the University of NSW, The Garden will be presenting three unique experiences: a calligraphy demonstration with take home cards, traditional Chinese opera mask face painting, and something the kids will enjoy, dressing in traditional Chinese dress and having their photo taken. The Garden will also be filled with performances from magicians as well as an artistic installation in The Gurr Pavilion by Matt Hoare. Titled **Windless Chimes of The Gurr**, Matt's installation will fill the Garden with soothing traditional sounds. Most importantly, don't forget to write your hopes and dreams on a Year of the Pig bookmark to hang in the Garden before you leave!

For further information, please visit www.darlingharbour.com, where you can find all the details about the Lunar New Year celebrations and its fortnight of special activities and events.

Darling Harbour Lunar New Year Events

Dance Battles at the Lunar Block Party 2019

Saturday 2 February to Sunday 3 February
12pm to 5pm
Pier Street Underpass
Free

Mahjong

Presented by Asia Pacific Mahjong
Saturday 2 February to Sunday 3 February
10am to 2pm
Chinese Garden of Friendship forecourt
Free

Opening Lion Dance Performance

Saturday 2 February
10am
Chinese Garden of Friendship
Free with Garden entry fee

Roving Lion Dance Performances

Saturday 9 February to Sunday 10 February

- Tumbalong Park and Darling Quarter

Saturday 16 February to Sunday 17 February

- Cockle Bay

Free

Closing Lion Dance Performance

Sunday 17 February
3pm
Chinese Garden of Friendship
Free with Garden entry fee

Year of the Pig Inflatable Art Installations

Saturday 2 February to Sunday 17 February
Chinese Garden of Friendship forecourt and ICC
Sydney forecourt
Free

Chinese Garden of Friendship

Saturday 2 February to Sunday 17 February
All information detailed in attachment
Chinese Garden of Friendship
Free with Garden entry fee

Dragon Boat Races

Saturday 9 February to Sunday 10 February
Saturday 8am to 5pm
Sunday 8.30am to 3pm
Cockle Bay
Free to spectate

Chinese New Year Lantern Festival

Thursday 14 February to Monday 18 February
7pm to 11pm
Tumbalong Park
Free