

Tuesday 6 March 2018

## **THOUSANDS ATTEND 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE EASTWOOD LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL**

The City of Ryde community has once again welcomed in the Lunar New Year in style with a hugely popular Grand Celebration closing off another successful Eastwood Lunar New Year Festival over the weekend (Saturday 3 March).

A terrific turnout of people took advantage of the beautiful warm sunshine in Eastwood on Saturday to attend the Grand Celebration, which included various cultural performances including the ever popular high pole lion dance.

The Grand Celebration was the culmination of the last three weeks of events that made up the festival, which was also celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and welcomed in the Year of the Dog.

The festival began with the annual Lunar New Year Cooking Competition, which was taken out by the Member for Parramatta, the Hon. Geoff Lee, who won over the competition judges with his delicious Zhongshan dumplings.

Also featured during the festival was a special Eastwood Night Markets evening which included the launch of the next phase of the exciting 'Ryde Lights' initiative that saw Eastwood Plaza lit up with a special Lunar New Year installation of 800 illuminated red lanterns.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the Eastwood Lunar New Year Festival gets bigger every year, and the 2018 edition was no exception.

"The City of Ryde is extremely proud to partner with the Lunar New Year committee in putting on this outstanding festival once again. Over the past three weeks, the City of Ryde has come together and celebrated our diverse, vibrant and multicultural community through an array of culture, colour and cuisine," Cllr Laxale said.

"As I have said, our city is so fortunate to have this festival on our doorsteps and the thousands of people who attended the past three weeks of events would no doubt agree."

Cllr Laxale paid tribute to Lunar New Year Committee Chairman Hugh Lee who is retiring after six years in the role.

"Hugh's tireless efforts to build the Eastwood Lunar New Festival from what was a relatively small event to what it is today should be commended and I would like to thank him on all that he and his committee have achieved," Cllr Laxale said.

"I would also like to thank Festival and Events Advisory Committee Chair Cllr Peter Kim for his involvement in the planning of the festival."

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