

2016 PAA Chinese New Year Dinner at the Rosehill Bowling Club

February 27th was a day before 'Chap Goh Meh' when your PAA hosted another annual Chinese New Year Dinner. Once again, the Rosehill Bowling Club was the chosen venue for the event and as usual, committee members, Suara Merdu band members were there early to help decorate the hall with Chinese New Year decorations. Much effort was put into ensuring the venue had a bright, festive atmosphere and the committee can be justifiably proud of their efforts.

As in the past, those attending the event would pay for their buffet meals furnished by the club and contribute \$ 5.00 to help with the rental of the room reserved for our use.

The event started on time although the turnout was somewhat disappointing with less than fifty attending. However, it also gave us the opportunity to welcome some new members, Irene and Colin Campbell, Nancy Tan, Celia Yeoh and David Otott and Bobby Tan. It is always a pleasure to welcome new members.

The event opened with president Evelyn Tien's welcome speech in which she personally welcomed all who attended and also extended the PAA's welcome to the new members. She also reiterated the PAA's Fifth Anniversary Dinner set for October the 1st 2016 at the Don Moore Community Centre in North Rocks. This event is expected to be something to look forward to with Peranakan food and extra entertainment provided on top of the music and song from Suara Merdu.

Of course, prior to introducing Evelyn, the master of ceremonies thanked the traditional owners of the land, the Durag and the national anthem was sung, albeit somewhat delayed when the computer decided not to cooperate as computers often do. So, maestro Jerry Tan began providing accompaniment with his guitar as we heartily sang "Advance Australia Fair".

The proceedings of the evening began with entertainment from Suara Merdu with a mixture of Chinese, Malay language and familiar English language songs. Despite a smaller crowd than previously, the participation of the crowd couldn't be better with almost all on the dance floor when the dance music began with the Latin American beat easily encouraging most to the floor. Most impressive of the dancing couple were Irene and Colin Campbell who showed us what ballroom dancing is all about with grace, agility and style.

The club's food was reasonably enjoyable but as is usual with a buffet, many of us probably ate more than we should. Still, the activities on the dance floor probably helped work some of the calories away and ballroom dancing does reduce calories quite effectively.

Of course, no PAA party would be without a raffle and despite the smaller (than average) crowd, it was well participated and the many winners must have been quite pleased with their prizes, especially as the competition pool was smaller.

As the evening wore on, the crowd's participation remained enthusiastic, especially on the dance floor with the usual Latin numbers and the ever popular 'joget' numbers. Interestingly, the evening turned out to be a success, perhaps the numbers were not there but the members and guests made up for it all by showing so much enthusiasm and helped make the evening an enjoyable one.

Much thanks has to be pressed on those, including the new members, for helping make the 2016 CNY dinner a successful night. Just why the turnout was disappointing can be put to some of the usual groups being away on a cruise and many being away on holiday. Perhaps next year...

P H Cheah
Editor