



Chinese New Year Celebration - February 28th 2015

Of course we have to help usher in the Year of the Goat or Sheep or Ram, depending on which animal you prefer. PAA NSW decided to return to the Rosehill Bowling Club. We used the premises in 2014 and its buffet, a mixture of Asian and Western pleased our members and guests. In fact, not long after the venue was advertised, response was so good that we hit the 120 allowed (by the bowling club). It pays to book early as there were a few disappointments and collecting the \$5.00 ahead of the function made it so much easier for the Organisers. The \$5.00 charge helps with the hiring of the hall, that includes its dance floor - a key feature in holding our event at the Rosehill Bowling Club. The spaciousness of the hall delights our band, 'Suara Merdu' and helped swirling feet!!

The hall was decorated in true Chinese fashion with decorations donated by Nonya Evelyn Tian, Nonya Su Cagnes and Baba Phee Huat. The decor reflected a Chinese New Year atmosphere. The evening started with Baba Nigel Tan, the Master of Ceremonies welcoming everyone, paying respect to the original owners of the land and, of course, the Australian National Anthem. Baba Nigel, as a first-time MC is no first timer, when his jokes on popular 'Ah Beng' enjoyed by Singaporeans, brought giggles around the ballroom. Nonya Evelyn, our PAA NSW President was then invited to stage for her President's opening announcements.

Nonya Evelyn welcomed everyone and encouraged guests to become members, as well as, reminding members to renew their membership. As an enticement, PAA NSW, making it affordable, offers a three-year memberships of \$70.00 for couples or \$50.00 for a single membership. President acknowledged and appreciated all sponsors for their gifts towards the Raffle, and encouraged the purchase of raffle tickets.

In the meantime, guests were enjoying the buffet, moving between the restaurant and the ballroom. I am certain many went for the Peking Duck on the menu and desserts were quite enticing as well. Coffee and tea were included. All in all, the food was pleasant and plentiful with each person probably wondering how much more their tummies could handle.

Baba Jerry Tan, leader of the resident band 'Suara Merdu' announced the band's start up for the 'performance songs' with the introduction of a medley of Chinese New Year traditional songs. We had the nonya dancers come out to perform with hula hoops while the band performed the old P Ramlee number, 'Hula Hup'. This was just one highlight of the entertainment provided by the band and the 'lovely

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ladies'. One item that has to be mentioned is **Hawa's enriching rendering of the classic song 'At Last'. ****Nigel -- do we address her as Nonya Hawa?? If so, please add NONYA.**

Very quickly, it was performance time – a time to rock and to roll with an Elvis song rendered by Baba Albert Soh. The energy the young nonya dancers displayed as they danced would shame many people at least a generation younger. Great to see that some of us 'older generation' still have plenty of energy. Sadly, this energy eluded the writer of these words – lol!

It was then time to Raffle the prizes by Baba Elvan Tong supported by Nonya Tracy Tan and this time, the winners had to wait a bit before being handed their prizes by Nonya President Evelyn Tan, as the prizes were numbered and each winner then picked out a number to win the prize. However, one last prize - a large hamper - was reserved for the end of the evening to encourage people to stay and it worked as those who had bought the tickets stayed on.

However, the 'Lovely ladies' were not finished for the evening. They came out once again, this time to the 'boogie-woogie' beat of the forties to recorded music by the Andrews Sisters. Remember them? And once again, they proved that being older does not preclude young-at-hearts from 'boogie-woogie-ing' to the forties swing music. Wonderful!

The band then got into full swing with the sing-a-long session with the lyrics of each song projected on the wall. It was good to see so many joined in as there were several 'joget' numbers with the usual Latin American beat so loved by many babas and nonyas, the dance floor quickly filled up with dancing enthusiasts. From a band member's perspective, it was gratifying to see so many enjoy the music and dance the night away. Seeing the many happy faces, smiling and enjoying a great evening as they gyrated on the floor demonstrated their appreciation to Suara Merdu!

Finally, as the band played 'Mari Pulang (Let's Go Home)' it was time to wind down the evening but for the band and committee, things were not over.

Thanks to the many members who stayed behind to help pack up. The evening closed with many round of appreciative applause by the President, who took the microphone - to Suara Merdu and their lead singer, Hawa, to the Happy 4 performers and Baba Albert, who was Elvis for the evening, and to PAA Executive Committee (Exco) members. Then the voice of Baba John Khoo, from the Exco Team was heard appreciating the President. Obviously, a great



beginning and a great ending of the evening for PAA NSW Chinese New Year 2015 Celebration.

Once again, PAA NSW has managed to organise a successful Event, an evening of good food, fun, laughter and companionship with the accompaniment of good music and sparkling entertainment from our resident band and the wonderful guest artistes. With the Year of the Goat, Ram, or Sheep well ushered in, your Exco Team now moves to bring you the next Event -- the 4th Anniversary Dinner slated for September 2015. Look out as more information will be broadcast in the coming months.

Please remember that once the venue and date is announced, do book early to avoid disappointment. And please don't forget to support the monthly socials held on the 4th Saturday of each month, usually at the Warne Street Leisure Centre in Pennant Hills.

Baba Phee Huat CHEAH
Resident Editor