

30 years of the Chinese Garden of Friendship Events and activities to celebrate one of Sydney's most-loved cultural destinations

For the last 30 years, the **Chinese Garden of Friendship** has provided visitors to Darling Harbour with a hidden, tranquil place to escape the city beat. For decades, visitors have enjoyed taking the time to relax and recharge as they immerse themselves in the Chinese culture and the Garden's serene environs of running water, towering willow trees, and cool lagoons with lotus plants and large colourful koi carp. This October, as the Garden celebrates its 30th anniversary, a wide range of events and activities will be held over two weeks from Saturday 29 September to Sunday 14 October.

Opened in 1988, the Garden was designed by Chinese landscape architects and gardeners and symbolises the strong friendship between Sydney and its Chinese sister city, Guangzhou. Architectural principles of the Taoist philosophy of *Yin* (calmness) and *Yang* (activity) are reflected throughout the Garden, represented through the elements of earth, fire, water, metal and wood. Two lions, stand guard at the entrance, protecting the Garden.

The Garden is inspired by a 1,000-year tradition of garden design, made famous by the Ming Dynasty style of Chinese gardens, which were lively places once enjoyed by scholars, poets, calligraphers, merchants and musicians. One of the most interesting features of the Garden is that, from any point inside, you cannot see the entire grounds, highlighting its depth and illusion of privacy.

The Chinese Garden are also thrilled to welcome the Lotus Dining Group to the Garden. The Group own and operate six esteemed dining venues across the Sydney CBD and will be undertaking full management of the Chinese Garden Teahouse and Function space from October 2018.

Each weekend, the Garden will be filled with musicians playing traditional and contemporary reworks from 1pm to 3pm, providing the perfect garden ambience.

The Garden will have three daily tours running throughout the two weeks of anniversary celebrations, guiding visitors through various features of the garden. Learn about the history, landscape and cultural heritage of the Garden, with the **Chinese Garden Highlights tour**, kicking off at 10:30am daily. At 11:45am, the **Plants in a Living Landscape tour** will guide visitors through the various exotic and native plant varieties growing in the Garden. Lastly, the **Rocks in a Living Landscape** tour begins at 2:30pm daily, focusing on the significant rock formations and the importance of their placements within the Garden.

A **photo exhibition** will also be on display inside the walls of the Garden, celebrating the Garden's history and unique essence. The exhibition will showcase what the Garden has brought to the people of Sydney for the past 30 years.

There will also be an array of spring school holiday workshops and activities for the whole family to enjoy as part of the Garden's anniversary celebrations. Using paint, rocks, soil, clay, moss, leaves and twigs, children will work in groups to create a **mini replica of the Chinese Garden**. Children will also be able to **create their own garden image** and turn it into a beautiful 'sun print' photograph. The workshops will be guided by a professional photographer and artist, who will show how images of the Garden's foliage can be used to create a botanical scene as well as teach basic photographic skills. The best part is all print creations can be taken home to display.

Families can also listen to the wonderful story of the **The Legend of The Dragon's Pearl**. The pearl plays an important role in Chinese culture and, traditionally, 30 years is known as the pearl anniversary. Following the story-telling, families can try and find the "dragon" and the "pearl" hidden in the Garden! For any mini jewellery designers, there will be a **pearl friendship bracelet making workshop**, with each bracelet incorporating a "pearl" as a symbol of friendship and various material colours inspired by the five elements within the Garden. All participants will be able to make two bracelets – one to take home and one to add to a friendship installation in the Garden.

For further information, please visit www.darlingharbour.com, where you can find all the details about the Chinese Garden of Friendship's 30th anniversary celebrations and its fortnight of special activities and events.

MEDIA RELEASE
Wednesday 19 September



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For further information and imagery please contact:

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Activity Timings

Chinese Garden Beginnings Photo Exhibition

Saturday 29 September – Sunday 14 October
Daily from 9:30am – 5:00pm

Chinese Garden Highlights Tour

Saturday 29 September – Sunday 14 October
Daily at 10:30am

Plants in A Living Landscape Tour

Saturday 29 September – Sunday 14 October
Daily at 11:45am

Rocks in A Living Landscape Tour

Saturday 29 September – Sunday 14 October
Daily at 2:30pm

Music in The Garden

Saturday 29 Sept- Sunday 30 Sept
1:00pm-3:00pm
Saturday 6 Oct – Sunday 2 Oct
1:00pm-3:00pm

Story Telling – The Legend of the Dragon’s Pearl

Saturday 29 Sept – Sunday 30 Sept
11:00am, 11:45am and 12:30pm
Saturday 6 Oct – Sunday 7 Oct
11:00am, 11:45am and 12:30pm

Pearl Friendship Bracelet Making

Tuesday 2 Oct & Thursday 4 Oct
11:00am- 1:00pm

Create a Chinese Garden of Friendship

Wednesday 3 Oct, Friday 5 Oct & Friday 12 Oct
11:00am- 1:00pm

Garden Worlds Workshop

Monday 8 Oct, Tuesday 9 Oct & Thursday 11 Oct
11:00am-1:00pm