



## I LOVE AUSTRALIA Celebrations and Exhibition.

The I LOVE AUSTRALIA Celebration was a nine-month project of collaboration between Fusion Culture Group and local community groups. Participants completed a survey and from this two days of Celebratory events were executed. These were an Art Exhibition plus performances on 30 January this year at the Ultimo Community Centre and, as part of the Living in Harmony Festival, the Voice of Sydney Australia on 12 March at the historic and charming Customs House at Circular Quay.

Over 300 locals, from toddlers to grand-parents, filled the Ultimo Community Centre with laughter and cheerful spirit for a fun-filled program which included heart-painting and kung-fu workshops, BBQ lunch, magic, comedy show, an Art Exhibition, poetry reading, fan dance, Fusion Family walk and talk show.

Pymont **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Company Directors and the Bendigo Bank Piggy worked with Fusion Culture Group to find ways to connect with and build bridges between and with the local English and non-English speaking residents and families.

The Bendigo Art Exhibition attracted over 90 entries from children and adults, and those who do not normally have a voice, to freely express what they love about Australia in any way they wish. The First Bendigo Prize "Most Original" was awarded to a member of the Compulsory Drug Treatment Correctional Centre. The Second Prize "Best Effort" went to the Ultimo Senior Citizens Choir. One of the five Highly Commended award prizes went to a group entry submitted by UnitingCare on behalf of their 28 clients who are 65+ years with dementia or other disabilities.

The event united the Pymont and Ultimo communities with volunteers and a diverse range of cultural and community

City West Community Financial Services Limited PO Box 304, Pymont NSW 2009 **ABN 11 068 049 178**

**Directors:** John Marsden (Chairman), Margaret Broadbent, Ian Bulluss, Gordon Elkington, John Hoff, Ashley Limbury, Sylvia Liu, John O'Meally, Charles Perry, Trish Strong, Raymond Tai, Van Lam Vinh.

Above: Local State MP Alex Greenwich, Pymont **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch Manager Garry Noel, Mrs Lim (mother of Mathew who is a student at Ultimo Primary School) and Nic Accaria, Principal of Ultimo Primary School.

Right: Oscar of Uniting Harris Community Centre taking part in the Happy Aussie Group Day



groups from further afield to join in the fun and get connected.

Ultimo Community Centre Manager, Danny, was most delighted to report that this event attracted the highest number of people attending an event at the Centre ever.

Event partners included Pymont **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch, Fusion Culture Group, Nativas English, Macquarie University and Spanish Community Care, and was supported by City of Sydney, Uniting Harris Community Centre and Ultimo Community Centre.

# The finale of I LOVE AUSTRALIA Celebration – Voice of Sydney.

Voice of Sydney Australia was about sharing stories of what people love about Australia through art, performances and magic.

Highlights included the Fusion Family Walk which is about Australia being a good country to bring-up children.

The Story of Young-Jo presented through a Korean traditional dance. She is deaf and moved from Korea to Australia to have a new life to learn English and Auslan (Australian Sign Language). Young-Jo is an Actor, Sign Singer and professional traditional Korean Dancer. She was the only professional performer of our event.

The “Blue Skies” play presented the major findings of what people love about Australia from food, clean air, fresh water, sports, friendly people to freedom and cultural diversity. This play was presented by members of Fusion Culture Group from script to show and involved 20 people. Half of the people do not speak Chinese and half do not speak any English. After five months of working together, the performers found their common language through acting and all became good friends. It was a fantastic experience for everyone and was what I LOVE AUSTRALIA was all about.

With flavours of Canada, China, Italy and Spain, the International Cooking Magic Show was the best show the Fusion Magic Club has presented thus far.

Superintendent David Donohue of the NSW Police Force and Commander of Sydney City Local Area Command was the special guest. He came in full police uniform.

The dedication and collaboration of Fusion Culture Group and local community groups made these presentations sensational events.



Group photo of special guests, volunteers, magicians, performers, judges, MC, and event partners.



In-house produced performance/play to present the findings of the I LOVE AUSTRALIA survey results on what people love about Australia...blue skies, friendly and tolerant people, freedom.



The Bendigo Piggy lost his shirt to the hungry shark as he protected his friends, but he came out alive and went on to join in the fun at Voice of Sydney event at Customs House.

## Community carols.

Carols in Union Square at the end of last year was even bigger than the year before and Pyrmont **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch is delighted to be a sponsor of this event.



Musical Director Oscar Vieira with his young son Hugo and Santa.

## CoSydney's inaugural Shine Award.

CoSydney CoWorking + Enterprise Accelerator supports, advances, and connects innovative, Australian-based Creative Industry Professionals. The centre houses the ArtSHINE Gallery, retail showcases, a coffee house, co-working and meeting spaces. In partnership with Pymont **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch, they initiated a competition to discover some of the city's diverse young entrepreneurs and find out what makes Sydney shine. The competition ran from October till December 2015 with a prize of a \$5,000 business account from Pymont **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch.

The winner of this award was the accomplished educational researcher and teacher, Danielle Gerber, with her App SPELLWICK which aims to help children improve their spelling and literacy skills through gaming. SPELLWICK takes young minds on an enchanting and challenging adventure through a fantasy realm where children engage in three magical spelling games where they gain witch money to customize sorcerers and power up magical wands in order to save the magical school Spellwick from the evil wizard invaders.

Danielle has created a highly structured creative writing program on the app's website [www.spellwick.com](http://www.spellwick.com) (soon to be released) where children use the words they have learnt in the App to greatly improve their creative writing skills.

Dannielle also received \$10,000 worth of professional coaching, business advisory, and coworking from CoSydney CoWorking + Enterprise Accelerator.

Danielle will run an exciting 10-week creative writing transformation program on her website where children use her creative writing program to create their own pieces of work which they will submit each week for marking by



Danielle receiving her award at the Pymont **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch.

Danielle. The best three weekly submissions receive great prizes like magical gemstones, fruit tattoos and movie vouchers and their name goes up on a weekly leader board. Additionally, the creative writing program will be presented in the form of EBooks for teachers to purchase separately in order to use in their classrooms.

Keep your eyes peeled for the 2016 competition.

## Thought for the day.

**Treat everyone with politeness, even those who are rude to you - not because they are nice, but because you are.**

Anon

## Bendigo Home Loans.

A fresh start is the start of something bigger.

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## From the Manager's desk.

Welcome to our Pyrmont **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch Newsletter. Since our last newsletter the staff and Board have been heavily involved in many community events starting when a record number of sausage sandwiches were prepared on the branch BBQ by staff and Board members for Christmas in Pyrmont.

Carols by Candlelight in Union Square, sponsored and supported by the Pyrmont **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch were, once again, a spectacular event and look like being a permanent annual event.

The I LOVE AUSTRALIA Celebration, put on by Fusion Culture and covered more fully at the beginning of the newsletter, was lots of fun for all. The Chinese New Year Celebration at the Marigold Restaurant in Chinatown, organised by the Harris Centre and Fusion Culture was a very special event which we were delighted to be a part of.

The staff and Board have also been busy supporting the sporting teams we have sponsored:

- The Sydney University Flames Basketball who competed in the National WNBL 2015 – 2016 season

- Sydney University NEAFL team who have just commenced the 2016 season
- Sydney CBD FC who are also about to begin their season in the ESFA with three teams competing.

This community engagement will go a long way to increasing the business and awareness of the Pyrmont **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch.

If you do not already bank with us and would like to support a business that gives back to its community why not call into the branch to find out how easy it is to switch your accounts?

We look forward to seeing you at the branch.

**Garry Noel**  
**Branch Manager**

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## Chinese New Year brings Sydney alive in February.

Staff and Directors of Pyrmont **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch immersed themselves in the Chinese New Year experience with sound, sight, taste and touch all in one package by celebrating Chinese New Year with some of the local non-English speaking senior residents of Ultimo and Pyrmont on 16 February.

Branch Manager Garry played the God of Wealth who took his job seriously and made sure everyone received the good luck sweet. Despite the language barrier, the Bendigo Bank sponsored God of Wealth, the Lion Dance, and lucky prizes brought everyone together with lots of noise, food and prizes.

The presence of a whole table of VIPs from the Piggy Bank (due to the lack of an official Chinese name, this is how the MC introduced the branch to the audiences) left a warm feeling and imprint in the hearts and minds of the local seniors. Uniting Harris Community Centre and Fusion Culture Group which orchestrated the collaboration greatly appreciated the effort put in by the staff and Board members of Pyrmont **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch.

The God of Wealth in full colour!



## Pyrmont Community Bank<sup>®</sup> Branch

148 Harris Street, Pyrmont NSW 2009 Phone: 9518 9866

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm and Saturday mornings 9.00am – 12 noon

Website: [www.bendigobank.com.au/pyrmont](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/pyrmont)

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