

## Chinese Culture in Australia

**An exhibition at the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame to celebrate multicultural Australia and its connection to the minerals industry.**

The Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame is delighted to host an exhibition in celebration of Chinese Culture to coincide with the grand opening of its *Garden of Remembrance* on May 25th.

The exhibition will feature a variety of Chinese art and artefacts including traditional scrolls, a photographic essay, traditional dance and lion costumes as well as artefacts of early Chinese settlement in Perth.



The *Garden of Remembrance* is a symbolic recognition of the many cultures that melded together to make the minerals industry an integral part of the diversity of multicultural Australia. It also recognises the importance of the current economic ties between Australia and China in the industry, symbolising the contrast between our two cultures whilst highlighting our connections. The garden is a serene oasis of green set within the arid landscape of outback Australia.



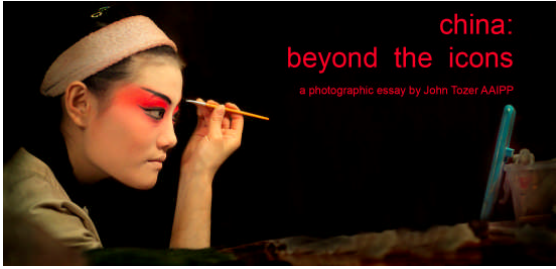
The Chinese migrants who came to Australia searching for gold in the 1850s faced not only being isolated from their families but also an intense animosity towards their culture. Their successes in the goldfields only increased this ill feeling, until legislation was drafted to keep Chinese numbers down in the colony. The White Australia Policy endured until 1965 and was cruelly effective, in many cases preventing families from joining their loved ones in Australia. However, those migrants who remained in Australia after the policy were an integral part of the growth of the country.



Reproduced sections of the National Museum's *Harvest of Endurance* scroll will be on display: *Harvest of Endurance* is a 50-metre-long scroll that represents two centuries of Chinese contact with, and emigration to, Australia. Stories of hardship and survival, resourcefulness and reward are painted in the traditional *gong bi* style. The project was sponsored by the Australia–China Friendship Society in celebration of the Australian Bicentenary in 1988.

A collection of scrolls is on loan from the Museum of Chinese Australian History in Melbourne. The scrolls exemplify a number of traditional Chinese symbols including, birds, fish and flowers; many of the scenes depicted relate to legends and superstitions. In traditional Chinese painting the act of painting was an expression of the life force, the qi, which exists in all things. The scrolls exhibited here are modern creations, dating from the last 3 decades.





*china: beyond the icons*, a photographic essay by John Tozer, follows the rich culture of China outside the typical icons – such as the Great Wall and the Beijing Olympic boom. *beyond the icons* documents the elderly at peace with a culture now resurrected; the serenity of the temples nurturing faiths long suppressed; and the survival of tradition in the face of inevitable change. With stunning images

and unique depth this photographic study reveals more of China's soul than the expected images of her history.

These insightful photographs are available for purchase.



On display for this celebration are brightly coloured Lions retired from their performing careers and a selection of traditional dance costumes from the Chung Wah association in Perth. The Chung Wah Association was officially established in Perth in 1909 to meet the social, cultural and political needs of Chinese in Western Australia. Today, the Association has attained the status of being the representative body for the Chinese community in Western Australia. The Association promotes Chinese culture through its cultural

groups - the Chung Wah Dragon and Lion Troupe, the Chung Wah Dance Ensemble and the Chung Wah Chinese Instruments Ensemble.

The exhibition aims to compliment the grand celebration of multiculturalism in the minerals industry planned for the grand opening of the *Garden of Remembrance*. This exquisite collection, representative of a stunning culture, offers a unique link to the minerals industry. The exhibition will be on display throughout May. The Mining Hall of Fame is open daily 9.00 – 4.30.

