


How I Celebrate

UTS Multicultural Women's Network

2023



The UTS Multicultural Women's Network acknowledge the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, the Boorooberongal people of the Dharug Nation, the Bidiagal people and the Gamaygal people upon whose ancestral lands the UTS campus stand. We pay respect to Elders past and present, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for these lands and recognising their continuing connection to land, waters, country, and community. We acknowledge the historical oppression of land, language, and culture of First Nations People and commit to the decolonising journey we all share.



Multicultural
Women's Network

WHAT?

The Multicultural Women's Network aims to showcase significant cultural events through our e-booklets.

WHY?

To acknowledge the cultural diversity of UTS. Using an assets-based approach of amplifying how people celebrate, this project aims to empower people to feel proud of their cultural backgrounds, as well as to celebrate the cultural diversity of our UTS community.

WHO?

This is for UTS staff, students and anyone else you think would benefit from learning more about cultural events.

This month, we're spotlighting

Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is celebrated by many people, including (but not limited to)

those with Chinese, Vietnamese, South Korean, Singaporean, Malaysian, Filipino and Indonesian heritage.



China's Lunar New Year is known as the Spring Festival, while Koreans refer to it as Seollal and Vietnamese call it Tết.

Tied to the lunar calendar, the holiday began as a time for feasting and to honour household and heavenly deities, as well as ancestors.





This year is

The Year
of the
Rabbit

and/
or

The Year
of the
Cat



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For more info, scan the QR code or look up the link for an article:

<https://bit.ly/3kdOio9>

Why are there two zodiacs for this year?



For more info, scan the QR code or look up the link for a video: bit.ly/3QFy3fX



**Stories
from our
UTS
community**

A time you were at your happiest celebrating Lunar New Year...

I arrived back to my paternal grandparents' home in Vietnam. They lived in a region known for its higher altitude and hills, growing coffee and tea. The views were scenic, the air was fresh, and the village was filled with happy families bringing gifts home and decorating the front of their houses with blossoming flowers.

Relatives gathered at my grandparents home for a big feast and most stayed overnight for different games of gambling, laughter and constant chatter.

Food was being constantly prepared over three days with everyone taking turns to help out in the kitchen. I got time to know my relatives. We would spend time updating each other on what had been going on in our lives as we live far apart and tell each other about our hopes and dreams and what it's like from where we live. It was a time I would never forget, how it felt to be connected to family and to share a special event.

John Tran, Evaluation Officer
Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion

A time you were at your happiest celebrating Lunar New Year...

Last year, when we celebrated the Lantern Festival segment of the Chinese New Year celebration at UTS. It was wonderful to be able to learn more about my family's heritage from UTS international students and share it with non-Chinese people at the same time.

Simon Au,
HELPS Academic Learning Advisor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Masters student, Former President and current Research Director of the Traditional Chinese Culture Association.

Event Emcee for a street party of Chinatown [which was a] cultural celebration [full of] Chinese food.

Rebecca Dong, Lecturer,
Business School

I picked up 100 yuan on the street on a new year morning. That's good.

Yixuan Wang
Faculty of Engineering and IT student and Traditional Chinese Culture Association member.

Bringing together family and friends and celebrating the start of a new year with food, entertainment and fanfare. It is a unique sense of community spirit that fills you with hope and optimism for a prosperous year ahead. It is also unique for me as my birthday also falls on Chinese New Year each year, so the celebrations are often amplified (with double the amount of red pockets with \$\$\$).

Kurt Cheng
Faculty of Law and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences student, and Member of the UTS Council.



What role did you play in the story?

...Returning home after being away for 13 years...some people in my family stayed longer and others decided to visit when initially they couldn't make it. For them, I was a symbol of their hope after fleeing the country as a refugee with my parents... it was enough for them to know that I was doing well and grew up in Australia to have a brighter future.

John Tran

I like to organise the house for guests as well as help with preparing the large variety of food that we eat to celebrate. There are common dishes, but each family has different approaches.

Kurt Cheng

I started the club at UTS with the goal of learning more about my ancestral heritage, share the knowledge with others and also give international students from different Chinese backgrounds a warm place to celebrate when away from their families. Being able to organise such an event at my work/study place...was an honour and a privilege...it really brought a strong sense of belonging to the UTS community regardless of the attendees' backgrounds

Simon Au

Who else was involved?

UTS
Activate

UTS
Mahjong
Club

Auslink

UTS
Language
and Culture
Society

Family and
Friends

Sydney
Hanfu
Association

All my relatives were showing warmth to create the happiest time I've ever experienced. Some of my relatives walked for kilometres from foot in rugged hill/jungle terrain to make it, yet they never spoke about the hardships they endured...They are amazing people and would bring whatever fresh farm produce they could afford.

John Tran

Most important things about Lunar New Year

Play games

Family

Having a positive and vibrant energy

Share stories

For me, Lunar New Year is about the sanctity of being with family...There is no other time that this is observed in such a way in our culture...also about the contribution of family members. Each member brings gifts to share or contribute in the kitchen to making food and we exchange money gifts (red pockets)...

Spending time at home sitting with family listening to new year music and watching TV shows together.

Dumplings

Steamed Meatball with Glutinous Rice

Eating

Yusheng (Prosperity toss)

John Tran

Aurora Wu, President of the Traditional Chinese Culture Association

I am not an authority on other cultures that celebrate the Lunar New Year. However, for Chinese New Year, family is absolutely central, which is why we were motivated to have something for our international students who would have been missing home at the time. Activities can vary from region to region, as with food. One of the more common activities is to make dumplings with family, which is why making dumplings together was part of our event. In some places, it is customary to hide a coin in one of the dumplings while making them. The person who gets that dumpling will have good luck for the year! We did not do this because of COVID and frankly, we couldn't afford the lawsuit from someone choking on a coin.

Another activity is carrying lanterns out on the final evening of the New Year week celebrations...In the past, riddles were written on lanterns in the streets for people. Young people, with their friends, would go out to solve the riddles but also take the opportunity to meet a significant other. The former activity is still common but the latter is not because Tinder is probably much more convenient.

Simon Au

Final thoughts...

Lunar New Year is about celebrating culture, family and a time to reconnect with a very important aspect in our lives. Exchange of gifts and wishing each other luck and good health is a way of showing we care and reaffirming our connecting with family. The gambling and sharing of the winnings in the end is a way of having fun and connecting with others, but it's also a symbol of overcoming the ups and downs of the year because no matter how much you win or lose, it's all about your family backing you. And finally the food is just great!

John Tran

It is a celebration of the achievements of the past year and bringing positive energy into a prosperous new year ahead. It is similar to the Western understanding of a New Year, but with a greater focus on family, values and auspicious rituals.

Kurt Cheng

A student from UTS College shares how they celebrate.



<http://bit.ly/3GOLiGD>

Kurt Cheng and family



Rebecca Dong (in red)

The UTS Traditional Chinese Culture Association invites you

Celebrate Chinese New Year together at UTS and have the opportunity to experience the traditional style of Chinese New Year. Everyone is welcome and valued regardless of their background.

Chinese New Year Event includes traditional activities like calligraphy, weiqi, papercutting, mahjong and Chinese performance arts such as Peking opera and Guqin.

Catering will be included:

Dumplings

Rice noodle roll

Date and time: 21/1/2023(Saturday) 12:30 - 4:30pm

Location: UTS Building 2 (near food court), 61 Broadway, Ultimo NSW 2007

Accessories/Dress: Something **Red** (Red represents joy, jubilation and auspiciousness)

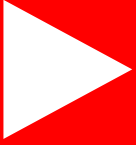
...we have decided to host an event at UTS to share the joy and fun with everyone as well as providing an opportunity to attend an event similar to the family event especially for those international students that can't go home yet.

Aurora Wu, President of the Traditional Chinese Culture Association

Get your ticket here:

<http://bit.ly/3IRMsDI>





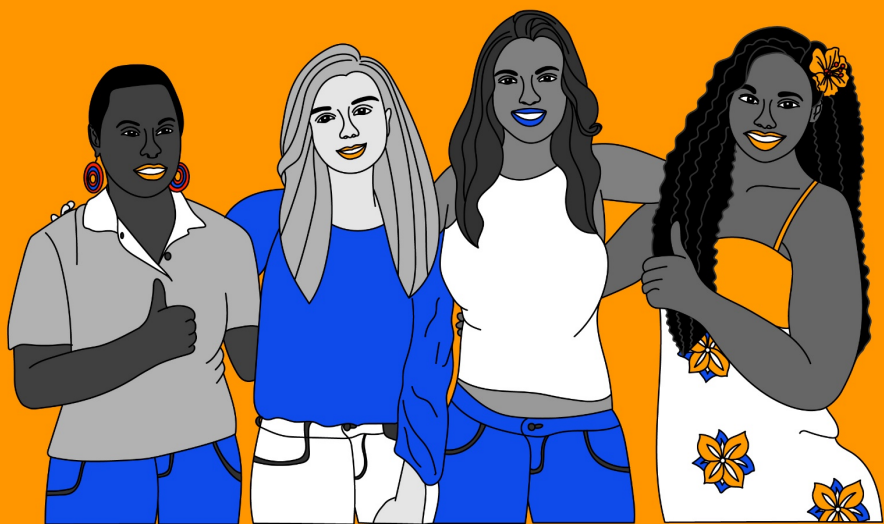
In whatever ways you
celebrate,

**Happy
Lunar New
Year!**



JOIN US!

Supporting women at UTS to
reach their full potential



For more information,
email:
mwn@uts.edu.au

**This booklet
was created
by Dr. Elaine
Laforteza**

A big thanks to everyone
who shared their stories.



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