

## Here We Are Again!

### The TCI at the 2018 Gold Coast Multicultural Festival (GCMF)

The Tourism Confucius Institute was again invited to be an exhibitor at the Gold Coast Multicultural Festival that took place on August 12<sup>th</sup> 2018. Since its founding the TCI has attended this annual festival every year in order to communicate with other ethnic groups and to introduce China's culture to friends from other communities.

Australia is a multicultural and multiracial country with people from a rich diversity of cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds. The Gold Coast has its own unique multicultural festival which is one of the most important events in Queensland's Multicultural Month. Many local residents and international visitors come here every year to attend the festival and enjoy themselves.

At about 10.00 am various kinds of performances greeted visitors arriving at the festival venue, the Broadwater Parklands. This year, the TCI's performances focussed on traditional Chinese instruments and also other activities like calligraphy and tug-of-war. We promoted a Chinese Painting Exhibition and a classical Chinese dance story "The Legend of Dunhuang", both of which will take place on the Gold Coast in late August and September.



Three volunteers from the TCI performed different traditional music on a bamboo flute, cucurbit flute and guzheng (21-stringed plucked instrument.) The musicians played very well, attracted large audiences and won some new fans. After their performances, many visitors stayed at the TCI's booth to learn more about Chinese traditional instruments and Chinese culture. Our staff tried their best to answer their questions.







As the number of people to the TCI booth boomed, our staff launched a second activity during which we gave our visitors the Chinese transliteration of their first name written with a Chinese brush in the form of calligraphy. This activity was an eye-catcher which drew many visitors who lined up, wrote down their names and learned more about Chinese characters and calligraphy with the help of our staff. Some of them even expressed their intention to take some TCI Chinese courses.

At 12.20 pm, TCI volunteers Lucy and Jerry were invited to give performances on the East Stage of the GKMF. They performed the traditional Chinese music pieces “Deep into the Bamboo Forest” on the cucurbit flute and “Celebration of Harvest on a Carriage” with a bamboo flute. Their renditions were such a great hit that the organiser arranged an encore performance at 1.30 pm on the West Stage. The successful performances brought even more Chinese charm to the festival.







At the same time, the TCI arranged the popular game of tug-of-war that attracted much visitor interest. Having given it a go many people were keen to play again. The players automatically split into two teams for the competition. Thanks to this popular game, the TCI had another consultation peak time, which made our staff very busy and happy.



After 4.00 pm the festival came to an end and our visitors had to leave with much reluctance. The TCI volunteers waved goodbye to everyone and our neighbours in other booths, and made an appointment to meet in August 2019 for next year's Gold Coast Multicultural Festival.