



Lot to crow about for Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations in Hobart

ALEX LUTTRELL, Sunday Tasmanian
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DANCING, singing, food and fire crackers will be some of the highlights at this year's Lunar New Year festival, which kicks off today.

Hobart's fifth festival celebrates the Chinese — or Lunar — New Year, which was brought in yesterday and in 2017 has been titled the Year of the Rooster.

A day of festivities is expected to draw up to 5000 people to Parliament Lawns today, with food, culture, performance and children's zones.

Highlights will include lion and dragon dances, cultural displays, food stalls and a child "panda" zone focusing on kid-friendly interactive activities.

Festival chairman James Lee, of the Chinese Community Association of Tasmania, said the event was titled the Lunar New Year Festival to incorporate other cultures that operate by the lunar calendar, based on phases of the moon.

"The Lunar New Year is the largest period of celebration for the Chinese," Mr Lee said.

Chinese New Year festivities will also continue for over two weeks.

Others include the Lantern Festival at the Town Hall on February 11, a lion dance at the Royal Hobart Regatta on February 13, a concert at the Federation Concert Hall on February 14 and a celebration for Chinese students and scholars at the Old Woolstore on February 17.

Today's festival runs from 10am-4pm.