



# CELESTIAL TAI CHI COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Term 5

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## 18<sup>th</sup> WTQA Festival and Competition



Competitors and judges (from the left): Rita Sullivan, Wally Wilkinson, Margaret Rogers, Snezana Dabic, Margie Brett and Suzette Hosken

***Free Park Lessons – Beginners welcome!***

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

Time: 10:00am to noon

**Central Park Malvern East**

Cnr Burke & Wattleree Roads

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

Time: 10:00am to noon

**Fairfield Park – Fairfield**

Cnr Heidelberg Rd & Fairfield Park Dr

## Grand Master Eng Chor's International Engagements

As well as being a leader of the Celestial Tai Chi College, Grand Master Eng Chor is also President of the National Martial Art Games Committee (NMGC) of Australia. As such, he is Australia's representative on the International Martial Art Games Committee (IMGC). At the last IMGC Executive Board meeting in Pyongyang in June 2016, Grand Master Eng Chor was elected Head of the IMGC Public Information Sectional Committee. This position includes all IMGC international promotion and advertising as well as maintaining the IMGC website.



**SI Noel Schmidt, GM Eng Chor Khor, SI Margaret Rogers (front row),  
Instr. Belinda Leong and SI Suzette Hosken (back row)**

An early task was to examine updating the current IMGC website. To assist him, GM Eng Chor formed a local committee to examine the best way to upgrade and manage the IMGC website better in the future. This new NMGC-Australia Website Strategy Committee had its first meeting recently – Members of this Committee are shown in the picture above.

One of the first actions of the Committee was to review a 'IMGC Website Update Options Research Paper' with a decision made to develop a new website using a popular, user-friendly, widely used industry-standard Content Management System (CMS) that is simple to use and easy to maintain. We also aim to improve the appearance of the IMGC website with more pictures and attractive layout. We are planning to have the new website ready in early 2017. Click here to view the current [www.imgc.org](http://www.imgc.org) website.

**Noel Schmidt, Senior Instructor**

## 2016 Wushu, Tai Chi & Qigong Australia (WTQA) Festival

On 28 August 2016, The Sports Centre of Monash University at Clayton Campus became a site of rare beauty, talent and skill. The opening ceremony of the 18th WTQA Festival and Competition was symbolically announced by a lion roar of a traditional Lion Dance, accompanied by clashing cymbals and drums, revealing the magic of colourful costumes and the agility of Hung Gar martial artists. The lion symbolically blessed the festival and its participants with its vigorous jumps and moves, bringing courage, power and good luck to all.



Following the welcoming speeches of Chief Judge, Master Tong Low, and other officials, the competition commenced on three arenas for Wushu, Tai Chi and Qigong individual and group events. Within minutes, the sports stadium turned into a busy and vibrant yet well-organised space for displaying diverse Chinese martial arts styles and forms, from traditional to standardised competition routines that delighted their spectators. They had a unique opportunity to see the competitors at their best.

In Wushu Arena 1 they could enjoy brisk weapon and dual events such as Chang Quan and Nanquan, sabre and cudgel forms or traditional barehands and short weapons, like Jue Quan and Bajie or Straight Sword and many others. If they strolled to Arena 2, they could watch the performers compete in graceful Duan Wei Yang style, Beijing 24 and 42 or traditional short weapons like Yang Fan 18 and 36, Chen 49 Sword, Mulan Fan (double) and Yang Flute, not to forget barehands such as Wudang 28, Chen 56, Wu or Hao, Yin Water form, to mention a few. Finally, in Arena 3 the spectators could take pleasure in the gentle charm and elegance of Health Qigong routines, such as Ba Duan Jin, Yi Jin Jing, Wu Qin Xi or Tai Chi forms like Wu Style Push Hands, Tai Chi for Energy, Wudang Bamboo, 32 Sword and many more.





Our College was well represented by a suite of enthusiastic volunteers, competitors, judges, a floor crew member and our Senior Master Chin Min Lian. Some of our students and instructors joined in to support the Celestial team with a friendly smile and a warm hug, always appreciated to conquer that stage fright. Our judges included four Senior Instructors, Margaret Rogers (Hawthorn & Ashburton), Wally Wilkinson (Brighton), Margie Brett (Moonee Ponds) and Snezana Dabic (Box Hill). And the competitors were Senior Instructor Suzette Hosken (Eltham & Camberwell), Instructor Rita Sullivan (Werribee) and the College student Clement Gilbert (Preston).



Visitors and guests, arriving throughout the day, could feel the friendly buzz and pleasant atmosphere. They were warmly greeted at the entrance by our very own Zenaida Calderon (Instructor in Keilor & South Yarra), WTQA Treasurer, and other floor crew who looked after the performers, judges, competitors and an occasional curious Monash student.

Guest performances were a welcome break in a busy schedule that dazzled the spectators with a magnificent array of Wushu and Tai Chi skills of highly accomplished Masters, followed by the thundering beat of Hung Gar Troupe drums. Our Master Chin Min's 42 Sword routine stood out for its expressiveness and flair. He congratulated our team, the judges for their contribution, "This shows the esteem WTQA give to the four of you as individuals and to the College" and the competitors, Suzette and Rita

in particular, for their achievement – Suzette winning three gold medals and Rita gold and silver medals, "So proud of both of you to be courageous to take the challenge to compete and to place yourselves to be judged! That is the spirit!" Clement Gilbert also won a gold medal. Master Chin Min "commended the work and contribution of Zenaida in her tireless work for WTQA" and "serving the Tai Chi community well".

Some of our supporters and participants happily voiced their impressions and admiration, like Judith Michael, our Trainee Instructor (Camberwell) and last year's participant who found 2016 Competition more relaxing and better organised as there was a "warm-up room provided for the participants, making the action hall quieter" so she was "able to take in the atmosphere, the colours, and feel both delight and empathy for the competitors; the shaking fan, the trembling of silk costumes sometimes betraying nervousness" that she remembered very well. Judith admired those "Zen-like exponents who had clearly conquered the performance butterflies, feet totally sure, perfectly

placed, energy coiling through body movements, concentration light yet focused”, but her “greatest inspiration came from (will *always* come from) the attitude of the participants and spectators. No shouts of triumph, no punching the air, but a quiet acceptance of who came first and who didn't. I saw pleasure and pride at an achievement, and respect for those who had tried their best.”

Our competitor Rita Sullivan also commented on the festival as being “a real challenge to increase my training and improve my tai chi skills”. She registered for four events and felt her rewards were not only the medals, “but the friendships formed with other college students, the support shown by Werribee Celestial and an appreciation for the WTQAs commitment to enhance the love of Wushu, Tai Chi and Qigong in Australia. It was a long day, but so worthwhile and hopefully more Celestial students will be inspired to take part in the future.”

A keen supporter of the team, our Senior Instructor John Sindoni (Werribee) “had a great day, three arenas kept my head turning. Great performances by Chin Min and so many of you judging and



our two champions displaying their skills”, our masters “should be proud”!

On behalf of the WTQA Committee, Zenaida extended “heartfelt thanks to Snr Master Chin Min for his graceful performance, Snezana, who represented all the judges in reading the Judge’s Pledge, Margie Brett, Margaret Rogers and Wally Wilkinson” – judges and Senior Instructors who were “concentrating so hard whilst enduring cold environment”. Special congratulations went to Suzette and Rita for representing the Celestial Tai Chi College and making us all proud.

It felt rewarding to be appreciated by Master Tong Low who praised our team for its professionalism and our

commitment, in particular both Masters and the competitors, “the athletes who participated with excellent skills”, winning medals, Suzette and Rita, and Snr Master Chin Min as “an excellent coach indeed”. He invited us all to join them again in the future.







As for the judges, we all felt honoured to be invited. In the words of Margie Brett, we “especially enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in the competition and to see the outstanding performances that we were treated to.” Wally Wilkinson noted how the Celestial team was known for being “reliable, responsible and respectful”. No doubt, keen concentration and observation further enhanced our own tai chi skills, our ability to analyse movements with precision, understand Chinese martial arts more in-depth and to teach – also, to judge impartially. Our learning continues.

Finally, as Judith Michael says, “Victors would not be victors if not for the efforts of every single competitor” or every single participant, I would like to add, since we all become winners when we put together our skills and talents, knowledge and good will, in an endeavour to create an event of beauty and joy like this Festival.

**Snezana Dabic, Senior Instructor**



## **“Master Mario’s” Early Morning Tai Chi in Box Hill**

If you ever happen to walk through Box Hill shopping precinct at 8am, you will come across a group of happy and energetic tai chi practitioners of all ages, but mainly young elderly and middle-aged people who never miss their free tai chi class. There are others too, those busy workers who stop for a breathing and stretching exercise on their way to work, because they love to start their day with vigour and a smile. The exercise routine usually includes Yang style tai chi, Beijing 24 and 42 and qigong, the beautiful Lohan Qigong in particular.

For a long time now, most of this devoted group of tai chi learners has been practising with “Master Mario”, a term of endearment they gave him, which, he says, “makes him feel young!” It all started when our late Senior Instructor Tony Donnoli decided to do something special for the local community with Senior Instructor Mario Cianci, over six years ago. Their initial idea turned into a wonderful class, a genuine commitment, every Tuesday morning at 8am in Centro, upstairs in front of the food court. These days Mario has assistance from Instructor Bruce Ellis, who is equally dedicated to running free classes for up to, sometimes, 30 grateful and passionate learners, classes that always finish with a cheerful clap of hands and a cuppa. The keenest amongst them then join our Doncaster, Box Hill and other tai chi centres.

**Snezana Dabic, Senior Instructor**



**College break: September 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>**





The **August Park Lesson** was a special treat for all those enthusiastic learners who braved the cool winter day as GM Eng Chor taught a magnificent Dayan Qigong form. We all enjoyed a couple of hours of relaxing bliss followed by fragrant Chinese tea!

**FREE Park Lessons** are a great opportunity to bring your family and friends and meet your fellow Tai Chi mates from all over the Celestial Tai Chi College while refining your movements.

### **2016 Christmas Banquet**

**Date:** Sunday 4 December 2016, 6pm for 6.30pm start.

**Venue:** *Happy Receptions*, 199-203 Union Rd, Ascot Vale

**Cost:** \$50, fully licensed

**Bookings:** through your Instructors or by ringing the office on 9840 2855

### **Have You Seen the College Website or Facebook Recently?**

Check out our terrific articles, photos and video footage of different past and upcoming special events, including the 18<sup>th</sup> WTQA Festival on [www.celestialtaichi.com](http://www.celestialtaichi.com) & [www.facebook.com/CelestialTaiChi/](https://www.facebook.com/CelestialTaiChi/)!