



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DELEGATE'S REPORT

14th August 2007

DR4	PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS FILE: 413 CLR DFS {Folio No. *} }
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SUMMARY:

Reporting on attendance at the 109th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence Day celebrations held at Mayfield Ex Services Club, 16th June 2007.

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DESCRIPTION:

The Kawilihan Cultural Dance Group from Kempsey, being Madolyn McLeod, the Group's dance instructor, and costume designer. The three other performers were Venus Elliot, Sheila Peet, and Aileen Hudson all of whom stole the show, as invited guest performers at the Philippines Independence Day Celebrations of the Filipino Community of the Hunter Region.

The Kawilihan dancers are members of the Arts and Culture Working Party and have voluntarily performed in public dance displays, particularly for Council during local Australia Day ceremonies.

At the celebrations held at the Mayfield Ex Services Club, the four dancers put on a skilful display of tapping, clapping and striking their Bakya (wooden shoes) together.

Then the Group performed the Pandanggo Sa Shaw or dance of light which involved balancing glasses containing lighted candles on the backs of their hands and on their heads.

Finally, the audience was treated la jata mincadina, in which they danced to the rhythm of bamboo castanets.

Invited dignitaries, and special guests of the society, which fosters Filipino – Australian relations, included Federal MP Sharon Grierson and Mr Michael Gallacher, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council. Mr Gallacher stated that he intended to praise the Kawilihan Dance Group, and Kempsey Shire Council in a forthcoming speech in the Legislative Council for their dedication to regional arts performances.

The evening's entertainment showcased talented performances by the Filipino Choir of Newcastle and Maharlika Dance Group, "Tinikling – Pista" as well as a Song number of Croqhenri Lucero.

Several speakers spoke of the special relationship between Filipino and Australian culture with both nations' flags proudly displayed side by side.

Kempsey Shire was given substantial promotion during the evening, emphasising the growing number of Filipinos residing on the Mid North Coast. A public invitation was extended to all persons present to visit the Shire, in an attempt to boost tourist numbers.

Once formalities were finalised the evening was spent with much social interaction on the dance floor, with music supplied by a Filipino brother and sister act called Talk of the Town.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

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- *Social*

The Kawilihan Cultural Dance Group has made public performances at Council's Australia Day celebrations and the Riverside Festival on previous occasions. This avenue of Dance highlights the interest in regional arts performances.

- *Economic (Financial)*

If consideration was given to host future Filipino Independence Day celebrations in the Macleay Valley then visitor numbers would certainly boost tourism in the Shire.

- *Policy or Statutory*

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted

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COUNCILLOR D F SAUL