LIFESTYLE & LIVING

Lantern festival a success for college

After a hiatus of four years, the Auckland Lantern Festival returned successfully to the Auckland event scene in February 2024. It attracted an estimated 150,000 people to the Manukau Sports Bowl in a celebration of Chinese culture, marking the end of Chinese New Year celebrations.

The festival also featured a cultural court highlighting aspects of Chinese culture. The New Zealand College of Chinese Medicine (NZCCM) was pleased to participate in this community event, providing one of the largest cultural court inputs demonstrating elements of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and including free consultation and TCM treatments to the public.

The TCM information stand was a leature of the cultural court exhibition, drawing high interest from people of many ethnic backgrounds eager to find out more about TCM and to seek advice and treatments including acupuncture and herbal medicine and to experience the positive results TCM can bring in treating ailments.

According to the college, many reported not only positive results but also finding the "magic" of an immediate relief for a particular problem.

The TCM stage was the biggest and busiest at the cultural court. While many sought to try treatments and experience TCM, maybe for some for the first time, others were keen to enquire about how to study to become a qualified TCM practitioner or to learn the skills and knowledge to be an acupuncturist, herbalist, or Chi-



staff from the New Zealand College of Chinese Medicine with visitors at the Auckland Lante Festival in February, where the college's stand in the cultural court was a great success.

ese massage (Tuina) practitioner.

The college was pleased to provide the opportunity for so many people to learn more about TCM and experience first-hand what it has to offer.

NZCCM is proud of its record of community service, providing free consultation and treatment services at a number of events and venues as part of its promotion of Chinese medicine culture and information. The college has a rich experience in teaching Traditional Chinese Medicine and promoting it in the community. As well as participating in the Lantern Festival, staff and students and members of the New Zealand Chinese Medicine professional organisations recently participated in free clinics as part of cultural activities at the Chinese New Year Festival at the ASB showgrounds. These free clinics were also a huge success.

The college has actively worked in the past with several marae providing clinics, information and health advice. Open Days are a feature of the college

programme with free clinics treatments

offered as part of the day's activities. NZCCM provides students with high-quality internationally recognised tertiary qualifications and an assured pathway to either further study or entry into an expanding healthcare sector providing Chinese Medicine, acupuncture and/or massage services through private practice clinics.

As well, graduates can access advanced study opportunities and internships in China TCM hospitals through the establishment of the China-New Zealand Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Currently the college is promoting enrolments in its degree, diploma and English programmes for the July intake.

All programmes offer pathways to excellent job prospects providing health services to a community with growing demand for new graduates to work in the industry. The college is proud of the quality of its programmes, the contributions made to health and wellbeing in local communities and through community events such as the Lantern Festival, as well as well as to Traditional Chinese Medicine education development in New Zealand.

The next Open Day is on March 26 and prospective students are invited to attend, meet with staff, see the college environment, and discuss courses and opportunities provided. Visit the college to find out more. For more information visit www.chinesemedicine.ac.nz or phone 09 580-2376 or email the college at enrolment@chinesemedicine.ac.nz

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