



This is one of the longest-standing community events in Palmerston North. This year it is promising to be as exciting and vibrant as ever. It is our city's chance to celebrate art, culture, lifestyle and explore their connections to each other and New Zealand. The event is fully accessible to all of the community and offers a variety of mainly free entertainment, covering areas such as food, music, arts and craft, cultural talks and performances and a cultural cuisine show.

The festival will open again in 2015 with a community cultural lantern parade and concert on Friday 20 March at 6:00pm. The parade will be after dark and around the Square. This year is "The Year of The Sheep".

This event will be followed the next day on Saturday 21 March by the World Food Craft and Music Fair, 10am-4pm in The Square in the centre of Palmerston North City. Here you can enjoy all day local and national music and entertainment and cultural foods, crafts and culture. Local cultural groups from our City and a few from outside will showcase and perform dancing from their country of origin.

Our headline band this year is yet to be announced.

Also this year for the fourth time in The Square and as part of the festival we will again host a cuisine show "A Taste of Culture" - it is free and all are welcome to just drop by any time.

We will update information as it comes to hand.

### **Festival of Cultures – Lantern Parade**

An evening parade will mark the Year of the Sheep in Palmerston North, and herald the beginning of the Festival of Cultures 2015.

There are many different beliefs about the origin of lantern festivals, however, it is likely to have had something to do with celebrating and cultivating positive relationships between people, families, nature and the higher beings that were believed to be responsible for bringing or returning the light each year.

The parade promises to give the people of Palmerston North and surrounding areas a flavour of the attractions in store during the festival which will be held in The Square and other venues between the 20 - 22 March 2015.

The parade will begin at around 8:30pm in The Square, it will leave from in front of the stage.

As always, there will also be plenty of performances and food stalls.

Acts to be announced.

There will be a new large sheep lantern made by REACT (Rangiwahia Environmental Arts Centre Trust) especially for this Chinese Year of The Sheep. The community are encouraged to make and bring their own lanterns of any shape or size. They will also be holding lantern making workshops, times and dates to be announced.

Put it in your diary!

If you are a non-commercial vendor interested in having a food, craft or activity site at this event please [click here for the application form](#) .

If you are a Commercial Vendor interested in having a site at this event please [click here for the appliation form.](#)