

SLOWFOOD Berry2JB MEMBERS MEETING - 23rd June 2022

Yummy Yum Cha

There was a full house (indeed there was a waiting list) at James Kitchen in Huskisson for yum cha with 24 of us sitting down for a delightful lunch on a beautiful winter's afternoon courtesy of Winnie and James of James' Kitchen. An introduction to yum cha literally meaning drink tea in Cantonese by Karen Lateo (a new member from Kiama) set the scene describing how it was a centuries-old custom in China to drink tea and tell stories, old and new, and generally gossip. She reminded us of the importance of yum cha etiquette where for example you never stick your chopsticks straight down into a bowl of rice because it resembles incense for the dead and will bring bad luck, if your teapot is empty you turn the top over, always finish the last grain of rice so a future spouse's skin will resemble the smoothness of the bowl, and never reach across the table but wait for the 'lazy Susan' to make its way round.

While we all chatted happily, Winnie brought what seemed to be a never-ending supply of 'nibbles' a wide variety of steamed Dim Sim and dumplings including vegetable, pork and prawn, vegetable spring rolls and finishing with fried rice and fish. All splendidly tasty and served with a smile and laughter as we tried to master the use of chopsticks, some of us giving up and reverting to the good old fork. Kim thanked everyone for coming especially the new members and wished Marilyn a speedy recovery in hospital. The winner of the lucky door prize was Sue Seldon.

Overall it was an extremely enjoyable occasion and some of us even had some room for a Husky special ice cream afterwards, sitting and gazing at a very clear Cape Perpendicular in the distance.

