

**Welcome to the Year of the  
Yin Earth Ox**

Gong Xi Fa Cai - Happy Chinese New Year - and a warm welcome to the Year of the Earth Ox. The Lunar year was welcomed on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January this year (generally regarded as traditional Chinese New Year) but as always with the Solar year and therefore, the feng shui year (known as Li Chun) actually starts on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February.

It is predicted that this year will be a calmer year than the last. The construction of each year in the Chinese cyclical system is based on one of the Ten Chinese Heavenly Stems sitting over one of the Twelve Earthly Branches. These Ten Heavenly Stems are the five elements (Earth, Metal, Water, Wood and Fire) in their yin and yang form. The Twelve Earthly Branches are the same but represented as the famous twelve animals of the Chinese astrological cycle, which too, are representations of the five elements in

both their yin and yang form but with the addition of **four** Earth signs – the Ox, the Dragon, the Goat and the Dog. These four Earth signs are seasonal breakers or interstices between the seasonal markers of the four seasons; Earth being the element of these four seasonal Enders:

Wood (Rabbit and Tiger), is the element of spring; Dragon is the end of spring. Fire (Snake and Horse) is the element of summer and the Goat is the end of that season. Metal (Monkey and Rooster) is the element of autumn and is completed by the Dog. Water (Pig and Rat) is the element of winter with the Ox being its finale’.

This year – 2009 is the year of Yin Earth sitting on the Earth Ox. This means it is a year of double earth. This indicates a year of less open conflict and since the element of earth is one of meditation, it is predicted it will be a year more of thought and contemplation on international issues rather than of violent and open conflict.

Last year, the year of the Rat – water element – sitting under Yang Earth indicated unstable earth and therefore, earthquakes and flooding such as we saw in both China and Burma. This year however, Yin Earth with the earth of the Ox, the earth element is in harmony with itself and so we have the symbol of friendship and competition rather than direct open conflict.

Yin earth is the symbol of a garden, and is therefore, related to ecology. It is to be hoped the year will be one

of redressing the issues surrounding the state of the globe. It is anticipated, that this will be a year for the new draft of politicians to pay attention to the issues of global warming as well as the state of the world’s economy.

The Ox being at the start of the cycle is nevertheless, a complex earth element with hidden aspects of metal and water. It indicates new beginnings in the way in which we are caring for the planet and so this focus by these leaders is likely to be on issues around housing and the construction industries, the economy in general, agriculture and global warming. Let’s hope they make some concrete moves.

The year also has the potential for three serious clashes. Especially this year is one of clash for those born in another earth sign: the Goat. People born in the years of Goat come under serious clash and are advised to wear a pendant of a Rat for the whole year. Those born in the

year of the Dog are under a similar clash, although not as serious. They too are advised to wear a pendant of a Rat. The last sign under clash is the Ox with itself and forms, like the other two, a three sha line-up. That means that those born in the year of the Ox are also advised to wear the pendant of a Rat for the year.

This clash is likely to bring serious accidents related to earth and so these people are advised to avoid activities in the mountains, underground such as in tunnels and caving, and to take extra care when driving.

**Goat years are:** 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003. (That is from 4<sup>th</sup> Feb of these years to 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb the following year.)

**Dog years are:** 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006. (That is from 4<sup>th</sup> Feb of these years to 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb the following year.)

**Ox years are:** 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009. (That is from 4<sup>th</sup> Feb of these years to 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb the following year.)

This clash extends to those born on either goat or dog days as well. These obviously need checking on an individual basis. That means if things seem to be going against you by mid March, at the latest, it would pay to have your dates checked.

From a feng shui perspective, Tai Sui or the Grand Duke is in the Northeast for the year and so anyone traveling, especially those under clash – people born in years of the Goat, Ox and Dog are advised against traveling directly in the direction of the Northeast. As this is to be a 9 centered year in Flying Stars feng shui,

**Quote:**

*Our deeds will travel with us from afar and what we have been makes us what we are.*

George Elliot: 1819 - 1880

and 9 is related to the element of fire, it is expected that there will be many fire related accidents and catastrophes during the year.

## • Important Reminder Annual Feng Shui Checks: ☯

The Feng Shui year starts every year with the Chinese Solar Year on 4<sup>th</sup> of February, (Feb 5<sup>th</sup> in Leap Years) so this means now is the time to have your feng shui checked for the year. The benefits of having your feng shui checked each year means that the incoming annual influences can be managed and where negative, be neutralized. In addition, any unwitting changes to your house/office that you may have made through the year can be checked and where necessary, corrected. (*Sometimes this may be as simple as the inadvertent placing of a new item of furniture in your home. In a commercial setting, it may be the addition of a new staff member's desk.*) Naturally, in the current economic climate, it is doubly important to have all your t's crossed and i's dotted. Since the clashes arising this year, affect such a wide range of people born across three different animal year ranges, it is really important to check and maximize your feng shui this year in particular. Feng shui is a natural resource that enables us to maximize not only the natural surroundings we inhabit but also our Man and Heaven's Luck. Having your house or office checked for the year can ensure that in spite of the economic chaos of recent months, you have the peace of mind knowing that no matter what happens, you have at least maximised your feng shui. Although this is one of the busiest times of year for me please be rest assured, I will get to you all over the next few weeks but please do call or e-mail as early as you can to book your annual audits. Remember, well adjusted feng shui can give you that extra edge that can make all the difference!



### QUOTE:

Nothing remains difficult, once you get used it.  
Indian Seer.



## Traditional Chinese Festivals:

Look out for the **Auckland Lantern Festival** this year. This is usually held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lunar Month which translates to 9<sup>th</sup> Feb this year and so the festival here will be held over a three day weekend period: 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. This is perhaps one of China's oldest festivals and signals the coming of spring. It seems to have been observed as long ago as the Warring States period in Chinese history, 475 BCE – 221 BCE where it is thought to have been connected with worship of the sun. By the time of the Han Dynasty it was being

practiced and even had certain political overtones in its use at that time. Although not as important as the *Chinese Lunar New Year Festival* it is certainly a well attended and enjoyed occasion. Being the year of the Ox, look out for many lanterns in the shape of an Ox or with an Ox theme.

The festival will take place in Albert Park each day between 5pm to 10:30pm and is free and open to all. From past experience it's a very well attended event and there will be many, many people there. I suggest bussing in rather than trying to find parking! Traditional dragon and lion dances will be performed as a part of the opening ceremony on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> February from 7.30pm

to 8pm. A fireworks display is scheduled to close the festivities on the Sunday night. With thousands of hand made lanterns strung out across the park, loads of stalls selling everything from delicious food, trinkets and encouraging all things Chinese, such as calligraphy and mahjong, it's a colourful and dynamic event, one which is very well supported by the local Chinese community.



### READER'S QUESTION:

**Question:** Steven asks: 'If there is a small street coming straight at my front door, even just a small pedestrian lane, is it still bad feng shui?'

**Answer:** This presents itself as a T intersection and although it is primarily a pedestrian lane, it still has a negative effect. In this situation the threat is not so serious and the usual remedy is to place either a pair of Lion Dogs or Qi-Lin at the front door. Qi-Lin are considered to be mythical animals that have protective energies and when placed in the correct locations can shield a building from harmful incoming forces

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