

Welcoming the Year of the Yang Wood Horse



The coming year of the Yang Wood Horse is likely to be a tumultuous year. The horse is one of the most charismatic of the animals in the Chinese zodiac. Where, superficially at least, the Dragon is thought to be kindly and auspicious and the Tiger ferocious and aggressive, the horse, by contrast, is quick, charismatic, exciting, sexy even; especially the fire horse (last seen 1966). However, such assessments are just that, superficial and not really of any real significance when looking at the annual dynamics which must also include an assessment of the upper Heavenly Stem that sits above the animal sign. The year of the Yang Wood Horse is one in which the symbol of Yang Wood sits on top of the sign of the horse and so it is known as the Yang Wood Horse. In traditional Chinese philosophy everything within the universe can be expressed as being either yin or yang and the way in which these two interact is by the interchange of the 5 elements: earth, metal, water, wood and fire. These in turn are expressed in both their yin (small) or yang (mass or large) forms. We are able to make certain predictions about the coming year simply from the mix of the element or *Heavenly Stem* sitting on top of the Earthly Branch or animal sign of the year.

In the case of **2014**, we have the Heavenly Stem of Yang Wood sitting on top of the fire of the Horse. Yang wood indicates big or very strong wood. Like a big tree the thick, heavy trunk is unable to sway or bend much in the winds of a gale and so there is an intractability or stubbornness about yang wood. It is said that people born under the influence of yang wood are inflexible and often suffer from mental pressure because they are unable to compromise or *bend*. This causes them to easily suffer breakdowns; many movie stars are yang wood and it is this aspect of their natures that can sometimes see them behaving erratically and eccentrically. Virginia

Wolfe, Whitney Houston, and Britney Spears are three such examples of yang wood people.

Normally we would think of wood and fire as being in a complimentary relationship simply based on the notion that wood feeds or *produces* fire. However, in the case of yang wood and the horse, this is not quite the case. The fire of the horse is explosive and frequently likened to that of a flickering candle or fuse, about to set off a far bigger explosion. The 6th of August 1945, the day on which the American's dropped the first atomic bomb was a day of yin fire. It is with the explosiveness of yin fire that the horse is associated; often this encompasses fierce gun fire. The month of the horse is June and so the height of the Northern summer; thus one has an image of the intractability of yang wood sitting on the flickering, explosive heat of the horse. This means that we can expect a year of stubbornness and inflexibility with the potential for sudden explosive outbursts; especially in international affairs.

Since it takes 60 years for the same combination to reappear, we can look back to 1954 for some indications as to what we might expect from the current year of the Yang Wood Horse. In 1954, the French lost the infamous battle of Dien Bien Phu, which was to see their eventual withdrawal from the whole of Indochina. Likewise, since fire attacks and conquers metal, and metal is related to skin and breathing organs, 2014 can be expected to be a year of increased air pollution and breathing problems.

A full in-depth assessment of what the year of the Yang Wood Horse holds in-store will be given at my Annual Talk along with advice given as how best to deal with issues of clash and penalty.

Annual Talk

Yes folks, all this means it's that time of year again; time for both my **Annual Talk** and for your **Annual Reviews**. My **Annual Talk** will be held this year at **7pm** at the Sky Dome, Auckland's Observatory on **Thursday 20th of February**. Invitations will be sent out shortly and since seating is limited, anyone wanting an invitation should either call me on: **(09) 6257-888** or email me at: fsc@fengshui88.co.nz

The theme of this year's talk will be the significance of the Four Pillars of Destiny in Feng Shui and will not only look back on significant events in **2013** but we will also look forward to what we might expect from **2014** and the **Year of the Yang Wood Horse**.

Annual Checks:

For anyone wanting an Annual feng shui check please call or e-mail to make your bookings. Remember, the feng shui year changes on the **4th of February** and it is best of the check is done before this date.

Reflections On:

A 'Touch of Venice' comes to Auckland



An artist's impression of the proposed waterway in the new Halsey St Precinct¹

According to a recent article in the New Zealand Herald, "A touch of Venice is going to be coming to Auckland as plans are progressed for a new canal to be dug through the centre of Auckland's Wynyard Quarter." Just a very little touch indeed, when one considers that all that's actually being proposed is one small 150m – 200m canal running east to west off Halsey St; parallel with Madden St to the North and Pakenham St to the South. The paths on either side of the proposed canal will be purely pedestrian according to the article and the artist's impression presents an attractive, relaxed urban scene albeit one that does not quite fit good feng shui guidelines in the buildings shown. Planners say the development of this western side of the inner city include intentions for a further five-star hotel, offices and eventually, upwards of 1500 apartments.

In a strictly Eurocentric view, it might seem natural to take the canals of Venice as the point of similarity of this up and coming revamp of the city. Taking our own place here on the edge of Asia, and widening our perspective out to other cities just as famous for their canals however, it may surprise readers to know just how many cities all across the globe have beautiful canals; which, from a feng shui perspective, all serve a similar one to those of Venice, whether recognised or not. Indeed in some, we will find architectural equals to those of Venice ranged along their banks, if not always of a European aesthetic.

¹ For the full New Zealand Herald article go here: http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=11160796

First, let's start with a little feng shui background as to the importance of canals and other water ways in general terms in classical Chinese feng shui.² The term Feng Shui translates simply enough as Wind (Feng) and Water (Shui). And in classical Chinese wind/water theory, water is related to trade and the accumulation of wealth. This can be seen in the world's major trading centres, all of which are, either coastal or have access to deep navigable water.³ Although the rules that govern the flow of water are many and complex, there are two simple principles that govern the flow of water in such situations. The first is that any trading site should be wrapped around by the flow of water, rather like a belt around a fat man's belly. The second is that from the point where the trade occurs, one should never be able to see back out of the *mouth* of the waterway. In this respect, the *mouth* refers to a harbour's entrance; or in the case of rivers and lakes those points where the water eventually exits the system of canals. Auckland in fact is a very good example of this with Rangitoto Island preventing any views to the open ocean from inside the Waitemata Harbour except for several tiny spots around upper Orakei, all of which have been; certainly until recently at least, lower socio-economic government owned housing areas. (How they will do after their controversial revamp remains yet to be seen.)

The above is an excerpt from my new blog at:

www.fengshui88.co.nz/blog

For the rest of this story and others please check out the entries at the above link.

QUOTE:

"If you don't get what you want, you suffer; if you get what you don't want, you suffer; even when you get exactly what you want, you still suffer because you can't hold on to it forever. Your mind is your predicament. It wants to be free of change. Free of pain, free of the obligations of life and death. But change is law and no amount of pretending will alter that reality." Socrates (via [saccharinenostalgia](http://www.saccharinenostalgia.com))

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² As opposed to the more popularly touted *Western* or *New Age* versions which really have little at all to do with the much older and more scientific original.