

## Seasons Greetings

Lot's of news and exciting things to tell you in this issue folks but of course, once again another year has come and gone and we are beginning the festive season for most people here in New Zealand. The older we get the quicker they seem to come and go. A dear friend of mine who is now in her 90's said to me the other day to wait until I was her age to know just how fast they really go! Happily I have a while to go to catch-up to her.

Chinese Lunar New Year falls quite late in **2013**, on **February 10<sup>th</sup>**. This date marks the start of the **lunar** year only and should not be mistaken for the commencement of the **solar** year on which the **feng shui calendar** is based. This is **February 4<sup>th</sup>**.

So as the year of the Water Dragon draws to a close and we look forward to the coming Year of the Water Snake, I would like to thank you all once again for your continuing support and trust in me. Let the festive season afford you all a time of fun, reflection and a well earned rest from the busyness of everyday life.

### Soon Time for Annual Checks

All these festive reminders mean it will soon be time again to check the feng shui for the coming year. I will put the normal notice in my first newsletter of the New Year but, the earlier you book the better as it is always the most hectic time of year for me and can take a bit of fitting everyone in before the end of March. Remember, the feng shui year begins on the 4<sup>th</sup> February.

### EXCITING VIDEO CLIP

I am delighted to announce the posting of a short video on the feng shui of Auckland on my website. It's also on YouTube.com. This short interview between me and Oscar Kightly discusses Auckland's classic 'Jade Belt and Dragon dipping its head to drink' formations of the city's feng shui, the importance of Rangitoto Island to the city's wealth and why so many Chinese love Howick. You can view it on: [www.fengshui88.co.nz](http://www.fengshui88.co.nz)

#### QUOTE:

"Beauty fades. Stupid is forever!"

### 'YEAR OF THE DRAGON'

#### TV3 DOCUMENTARY WILL SOON AIR

The short feng shui video clip on my website is a side documentary to the 'The Year of the Dragon' about to be aired on TV3 sometime between now and

Chinese New Year. It's an hour long documentary, produced by Elizabeth Mitchell of *Fire Horse Productions* and stars Oscar Kightly as presenter. It looks at 2012, the Year of the Dragon, from the perspective of traditional Chinese Astrology. Hope you enjoy it! We had a blast making it.

#### QUOTE:

"Anxiety is nothing but repeatedly re-experiencing failure in advance. What a waste!"

Seth Godin

### BOOKS FOR THE VACATIONS

For those wanting a good read over the holidays the following are some suggestions I think worthwhile. Anyone interested in the unfolding events in Burma this past year will benefit from these four books: *Perfect Hostage: Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma and the Generals*. It traces Aung San Suu Kyi's life and rise to fame from her student days at Oxford and Kyoto Universities, her marriage to Micael Aris and her return to Burma and the ongoing tribulations with the Junta. Written in 2007, it is a good place to start understanding Aung San Suu Kyi and the role she has played in Burma's troubled politics.

*A Burmese Legacy: Rediscovering my Family*: by Sue Arnold is an often hilarious and always humanely honest look at her family in its complex of Anglo-Burmese heritage. With two British grandfathers and two Burmese grandmothers, Arnold explores the enigmas of her family's past and uncovers more than one skeleton in the family closet. Never shying away from inconvenient truths, her story is set against the background of Burma's unfolding national tragedy as it descended into the morass of corrupt and vile military rule and her own privileged middle class life in England. Well worth the read.

James Mawsdley's *The Iron Road: A stand for truth and democracy in Burma* outlines his breathtakingly bold but wonderfully naïve brush with the generals of Burma's ruling elite. Incensed at Aung San Suu Kyi's treatment by the Junta, he leaves New Zealand and stages a one man protest in Rangoon. Quickly arrested he comes face to face with the machinations of the authorities. Freed, he connives to return and take the fight to the generals. Often hilarious, unfailingly, brave and always thought provoking it's a great read in light of the progress that appears to have been made in recent months.

The fourth, not strictly about Burma alone but one deeply disturbing for its look at the deplorable conditions in Burma under which jade and gem mining is conducted, much of it for the wealthy Chinese market. ***The Stone of Heaven: the secret history of Imperial Green Jade*** by Adrian Levy and Cathy Scott-Clark traces the jade and gemstone trade from the times of Imperial China and the Kings of Burma, to the appalling conditions under which the stones are mined in Burma today. From heiresses like Barbara Hutton to Madame Chiang Kai Shek who wore some of the best jade jewellery in history, the authors follow the trail of Burmese jade, rubies and emeralds to the super-rich who seek it out. Part history, part investigative journalism, the book looks at important moral and political issues that are unlikely to be resolved with the new openness and reforms in Burma. Aung San Suu Kyi is correct in cautioning the West in its enthusiasm for the present reforms the Generals in Burma *seem* to be willing to engage in.

**QUOTE:**

*“Speak against unconscious oppression,  
Speak against the tyranny of the unimaginative,  
Speak against bonds.”*

Ezra Pound

**ANNUAL TALK - FENG SHUI BASICS**

At my next Annual Feng Shui Talk in mid February I hope to give an earlier session on the history and basics of classical Chinese feng shui. This is designed for new clients, those simply interested and anyone wanting to revisit this. It will be an hour session prior to the main talk. The main talk will also have a section on the use of remedies and why we do what we do. This is in response to requests from a number of not only new clients but regular clients who want to better understand the annual processes. All details for this talk and the two sessions will be in my first newsletter of 2013, along with some basic outlooks for the coming year of the water Snake. If you know of anyone that you think might benefit from the Annual Talk, don't hesitate to tell me and I will arrange for an invitation for them.

**OBITUARY**

**Ravi Shankar 1920 - 2012**

Pre-eminent Indian sitar player died peacefully at his home in India, aged 92 on Dec 2012. Ravi Shankar was not only highly revered for his musical abilities as an artist and teacher (He was hugely influential with the Beatles, especially George Harrison) but also for his integrity and spiritual integrity. Having started life as a classical Indian Dancer, he then spent years studying the sitar to become the world's

leading virtuoso of that instrument. He was the first sitar player to gain international acclaim and be invited to the West where he frequently toured to great acclaim. He rejected the drug culture of modern musical circles however, and stressed the importance of music to his spiritual path. His estranged daughter Norah Jones has followed him in a career of music.



**Ravi Shankar and George Harrison 1960's**

**FENG SHUI BOOK COMING**

I have, at long last, finished my book ***Strange but True - Tales of Feng Shui***. It should be ready for publication and sale early in the New Year. A series of tales about classical Chinese feng shui and my own experiences in its practice; it will be available in early February. Check out the website for updates.

**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Finally I just want to thank all my clients and students for their on-going support throughout the year. Being a Feng Shui consultant and teacher is a dynamic and fascinating way to earn one's living but is impossible without each and every one of you. I truly appreciate your trust and belief in me and wish you all the best for the holiday season and 2013.



**Review of My Services:**

- Land and Site Pre-Inspections / New Building Advice
- Audits on Existing Buildings - Domestic and Commercial
- Four Pillars of Destiny Charts (Chinese Astrology)
- Public Speaking Engagements

*Produced and Distributed by:*

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