

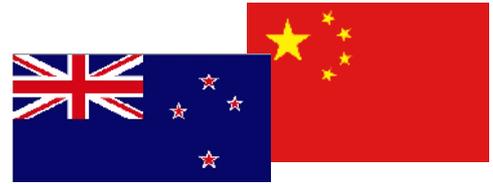
新中友好協會

NZ China Friendship Soc.
Hibiscus Coast Branch
Friends News

朋友們消息

péng yǒu men xiāo xī

Jan 2009



Patron: Philip Burdon
Branch President: Lady Rhyl Jansen 09 426 1547
Secretary (acting): Allen Crosby 09 427 4009
Treasurer: Dicky Hutchings 09 426 4480
Editor: Duncan France 09 428 5623

Congratulations and best wishes
for a prosperous New Year!

恭喜发财 gōng xǐ fā cái

恭喜发财 恭喜發財 恭喜發財

Simplified

Traditional

Seal script

Year of the Ox

The Ox (牛 *pinyin niú*) is one of the 12-year cycle of animals which appear in the [Chinese zodiac](#) related to the [Chinese calendar](#). The **Year of the Ox** is denoted by the [earthly branch](#) character 丑 (*Pinyin chǒu*, *traditional 醜*).



The following, taken from Wikipedia, gives the horological attributes of someone born under this sign:

People born within these date ranges can be said to have been born in the "year of the Ox," while also bearing the following elemental sign:

- 19 February 1901 - 7 February 1902: Metal Ox
- 6 February 1913 - 25 January 1914: Water Ox
- 25 January 1925 - 12 February 1926: Wood Ox
- 11 February 1937 - 30 January 1938: Fire Ox
- 29 January 1949 - 16 February 1950: Earth Ox
- 15 February 1961 - 4 February 1962: Metal Ox
- 3 February 1973 - 22 January 1974: Water Ox
- 20 February 1985 - 8 February 1986: Wood Ox
- 7 February 1997 - 28 January 1998: Fire Ox
- 26 January 2009 - 14 February 2010: Earth Oxnn
- 2021 - 2022: Metal Ox
- 2033 - 2034: Water Ox

For a video showing Chinese brush painting of an Ox, please press 'Ctrl' and click [HERE](#)

The Ox is the sign of prosperity through fortitude and hard work. This powerful sign is a born leader, being quite dependable and possessing an innate ability to achieve great things. As one might guess, such people are dependable, calm, and modest. Like their animal namesake, the Ox is unwaveringly patient, tireless in their work, and capable of enduring any amount of hardship without complaint.

Ox people need peace and quiet to work through their ideas, and when they have set their mind on something it is hard for them to be convinced otherwise. An Ox person has a very logical mind and is extremely systematic in whatever they do, even without imagination. These people speak little but are extremely intelligent. When necessary, they are articulate and eloquent.

People born under the influence of the Ox are kind, caring souls, logical, positive, filled with common sense and with their feet firmly planted on the ground. Security is their main preoccupation in life, and they are prepared to toil long and hard in order to provide a warm, comfortable and stable nest for themselves and their families. Strong-minded, stubborn, individualistic, the majority are highly intelligent individuals who don't take kindly to being told what to do.

The Ox works hard, patiently, and methodically, with original intelligence and reflective thought. These people enjoy helping others. Behind this tenacious, laboring, and self-sacrificing exterior lies an active mind.

The Ox is not extravagant, and the thought of living off credit cards or being in debt makes them nervous. The possibility of taking a serious risk could cause the Ox sleepless nights.

Ox people are truthful and sincere, and the idea of wheeling and dealing in a competitive world is distasteful to them. They are rarely driven by the prospect of financial gain. These people are always welcome because of their honesty and patience. They have many friends, who appreciate the fact that the Ox people are wary of new trends, although every now and then they can be encouraged to try something new.

It is important to remember that the Ox people are sociable and relaxed when they feel secure, but occasionally a dark cloud looms over such people and they engage all the trials of the whole world and seek solutions for them. Also the Ox people are all caring and loving but at times when you mess with them they will tear out in anger.

Attribute	Traditional Ox Attributes/Associations
Zodiac Location:	2 nd
Ruling hours:	1am-3am
Direction:	North-northeast
Season and month:	Winter, January
Lunar Month Dates:	January 6-February 3
Gemstone:	Onyx
Colors:	Yellow, blue
Roughly-equivalent Western sign:	Capricorn
Polarity:	Yin
Element:	Water
Positive Traits:	Responsible, dependable, honest, caring, honourable, intelligent, industrious, practical
Negative Traits:	Petty, inflexible, possessive, dogmatic, gullible, stubborn, critical, intolerant, materialistic

Talk by Michael Goudie

There was a good turnout for the very informative talk given by Rodney Councillor, Michael Goudie, on Thursday evening, January 22, 2009 at the Pohutukawa Room in the Whangaparaoa Library.

His talk was about his recent trip to China as part of the **Prominent Persons and Leaders Group**, sponsored by the Society and all expenses within China were financed by the Chinese Government (CPAFFC – **Chinese Peoples Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries**, known as *Youxie*, for short...).

Michael spoke of the ‘full-on’ trip as very informative and a fascinating insight, albeit brief, into the Chinese way of life. It covered several towns in China, mainly Beijing where they visited some of the Olympic venues as well as the Great Wall, Hunan Province (Mao’s birthplace, and several mountain ‘towns/villages’) and Shanghai. Michael also made contact with several Chinese friends with whom he had met at Auckland University.

In particular, he described the towering new buildings going up everywhere in China.

“Photos don’t show the vastness of these new constructions”, he said “And the speed with which they are going up is phenomenal”. Buildings that would take several years to build elsewhere (let alone ‘Building Consent’ problems), often go up in a matter of months.” Michael said. the huge ‘Water Bubble’ arena at the Olympic Village was ‘truly amazing’.

Another striking feature was the vast numbers of people living in China, - in even remote towns. “We would arrive at what appeared on the map to be a very small town, only to be told that the population was 2-3 million”! “Coming, as we do, from little New Zealand with our small population, it was overwhelming to see so many people everywhere.

The audience were amused to hear Michael affirm that he was fairly naïve before he went and being younger than most visitors to China’s shores, felt he was given some leeway when it came to asking embarrassing questions such as “What corruption is there within the local government”? Needless to say, the answers were pretty guarded! He was surprised, however, to find that freedom of speech was reasonably widespread among the ordinary people, but the guides would always state party policy whenever they were asked questions.

He described the timeframe of the trip as being “pretty full on”, with, in Beijing, a full-day conference (the **China International Friendship Cities Conference** – equivalent to a Sister-Cities conference, with a new speech every 8 minutes... But, a very good opportunity to meet like-people from a number of countries).

Then, on ‘tourist’ days, bus rides of sometimes five hours, punctuated by short stops for meals, one night stays in hotels, built especially for tourists with their own welcoming committee at each stop. “Getting out of the bus after five hours, feeling like death and just wanting to lie down required great patience”, he said. The welcoming committee with dancers and singers often took much longer than they wished.

In Shanghai, Michael, with his councillor hat on, was most impressed by the Shanghai Planning Center, where the accent was on the planning and preparations for the World Expo in 2010, which are already well advanced. He also had an opportunity to enquire as to what might be needed for someone wanting to set-up in business. “This is quite feasible. All it needs is good relations with the Shanghai authorities (including the Police), and rather deep pockets....”

Several people in the audience asked questions, including “How do the Chinese relate to foreigners”? Michael replied that most Westerners were welcomed and smiled at and generally accepted, whether it was just in the street or at meetings. To the question of pollution, he indicated that during his 10 days in China, “It wasn’t very evident”.

And Michael’s bottom line: He sees this trip as just a foretaste and “would really love to go back”.

It was good to see several outsiders come to Michael’s talk and they were welcomed and invited to become members.

The following is the text by Michael Goudie, of an upcoming article in the Rodney Times:

Eye Opener

First of all I have to thank and acknowledge the New Zealand Chinese Friendship Society, for

- A. Nominating myself as a prominent person for the delegation and
- B. Widening my perception on the practical, positive influence not only to our Chinese residents but to the whole community.

Upon my return, I know my own perception has been changed forever and a new passion for China has developed. I went thinking that the country was well-off and not very interested in what anyone else is up to. But the harsh reality is that the average Chinese person still earns less than US\$3000 a year, and our support and friendship is crucial to communities abroad. A friend on the delegation said that to really get to know someone better, you don’t just say ‘hello’ in the street, but you go to their house and take note of what is in the fridge and on the walls. This in a strange way made more sense to me when I got back. I never realised how much I actually interacted with Chinese people and how much I had presumed to know about them. Very naïve! To have actually gone to China and tasted the history, I have developed a far better understanding of where they may have come from; I have ‘looked in the fridge’ so to speak. This is even more evident when I’m conversing - to drop into a conversation where I have been and what I have seen and experienced, creates instant connections.

Beijing, Hunan (Changsha, Zhangjiajie and Fenghuang Old City) to Shanghai, 10 days and 6 cities later it seemed like every minute was planned. It was rush, rush, rush, eat, eat, eat, look, look, look, listen, listen, listen, back on the bus, rush, rush, rush, hello, hello, hello, eat, eat, eat, rush, rush, rush. It was an intense and tiring 10 days. The Chinese Friendship Society¹ based in Beijing is an NGO (non government organisation). However the society is funded by the government so you put the pieces together? I was surprised at what the society allowed the delegation to see. Not just the glam and wealth of Beijing, Hong Kong and Shanghai, but poverty, farming and manufacturing of some more central areas of China through Hunan. Before the trip, I had no knowledge of China and thought it was like most other countries, and to be fair, I probably wasn’t that interested. But to stand in the room where Chairman Mao was born - to stand in the middle of Tiananmen Square, the

¹ The Chinese Peoples Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), known as *Youxie*, for short

gateway to the Forbidden City, where a massacre occurred around 10 years ago, was entrenching and overwhelming. This was just a touch of many experiences gained.

I felt very privileged to be hosted by China in what I see to be a very important time. I felt that they were making a huge effort to open themselves up to the world. Beijing has proved to everybody that it leads the way in city management, cleaning up from a very polished Olympic Games. With Shanghai now in preparation to host the World Expo in 2010, they have more than a dozen projects being implemented in time, including the most famous 35km bridge over water to a new city-port that's being created. Shanghai was my favourite, probably because it was most familiar. However, the enormous scale and planning involved in a city of 18.5 million people (officially), or 25 million people unofficially, was mind blowing. While the trip was quite rushed and really just a teaser of what more I could have seen, the movie trailer of the new China was fascinating and I would definitely encourage more people to visit.

The mountains and caves of Zhangjiajie, to the green landscape of Hunan, and the hustle of the big cities was a real eye opener. One great investment in memories!

Michael Goudie





Mao Zedong's Birthplace – Shaoshan

Shaoshan is about forty kilometers west of the county town of Xiangtan, Hunan Province. It is one of the seventy-two peaks of the majestic Mount Hengshan. According to legend, when King Yu was on his way south to inspect the flood control projects, he stopped here and played some ancient Shao music. The place was therefore called Shaoshan-Mount of the Shao Music. A village called Shaoshanchong at the foot of the mountain was where Mao Zedong (1893-1976), the late leader of China was born and grew up. An exhibition hall memorializing Mao's life and revolutionary activities has been built at the town of Shaoshan, formerly Shaoshanchong Village, and is now open to visitors who can stay at the local hotel. There are regular train and bus services between Shaoshan and Changsha.

Shaoshan, a mountain village about 100km southwest of Changsha, with some fairly beautiful scenery and a once typically Hunan village atmosphere, has been irreparably changed by history. On the 26th December 1893, a baby was born in a little house in this village, to a relatively wealthy peasant couple. The child was to grow up to become China's Great Helmsman, Chairman Mao Zedong, and it was in this region that he spent his childhood and youth, attending school and helping his father with his work.



The tourist attractions in the village are highly propagandorial, but then this is all part and parcel of the Mao image. Loudspeakers will greet you on arrival with revolutionary songs and speeches; the village is guarded by sleepily bored soldiers and the history is only partially represented at best. The revolutionary tourist attractions include the Former Residence of Mao Zedong (Mao zedong guju), the Ancestral Temple of the Mao Family, now Comrade Mao's Museum (Mao zedong tongzhi jinianguan), Stone Steles covered with Mao's poems, and a Revolutionary Martyr's Cemetery. The former residence is the most interesting. Entered through a courtyard, the house is of a sunny yellow, mud brick walls, with a nicely thatched roof, and is found on a wooded hillside, above some lush paddy fields. You can visit all of the 13 rooms inside, that include a kitchen, a dining room, three family bedrooms, a guest room and an ancestral hall. Within the rooms are various personal effects of Mao and his parents, as well as photos from Mao's life.

If the propaganda gets too much, the area around the village is of the beautifully simple Hunan countryside, with small peasant houses scattered about the stepped paddyfields and bamboo groves. The Dripping Water Cave (Dishui dong), about 3km northwest of the village, is a very popular destination, possibly because of the fact that Mao allegedly spent 11 days here in the early days of the Cultural Revolution Years (1966-76), contemplating the unknown. Even nicer however, is the ascent to Shao Hill Peak (Shaoshan feng), the conical hill just to the northwest of the village. From the summit (reached on foot [1-2hrs.] or by cable car [RMB20]), you will have some good views over the village and Hunanese countryside.

MAO'S BIRTHPLACE IS LOSING
LURE FOR TOURISTS:

The New York Times

Press 'Ctrl' and Click [HERE](#)

Sunday, January 25, 2009

Teaching English in China

Would you like to do something very different from what your friends would think of doing?

Why not try teaching English in China?

It could be the start of a whole new life-changing experience

- which may not come your way again.



Experience a culture that is thousands of years older than you ever imagined you would. Certainly something that your mother could never imagine you doing.

You will be teaching spoken English, as we “speak” it in New Zealand. You will have accommodation supplied. And [with some contracts] your airfares paid for.



You will get to travel and visit some of the oldest historical sites and cities in the world. You will go into small villages and towns and meet the local community and learn how they live.

We now have firm contacts in China that we are working with to enable all contracts and arrangements to be finalized long before you leave for China.

We will help you obtain the necessary Work Permits that are required for you to teach in China

We make all flight arrangements for you from your nearest airport in New Zealand (or wherever), to your school in China

For further information and answers to your many questions:

Contact us:

Eric & Clarice Dittmer

8 Moera Place

Arkles Bay

Whangaparaoa, 0932

New Zealand

☎ 0064-9-428-7349 / 021-597-550

✉ ericdittmer@xtra.co.nz

Our branch is hosting the Society's National Conference in Orewa, May 8th to May 10th 2009

Programme

Friday

- 2:30 - 6pm Registrations
3pm -5pm National Executive Meeting
6pm Welcome Reception (sponsored by New World)
6.30pm **Official Opening:**
- Mayor of Rodney Penny Webster
 - Hon. Lockwood Smith
 - NZCFS Inc. President Eric Livingstone
 - HE Ambassador to PRC, Zhang Limin (*to be confirmed*)
- Keynote address:** ?? (*to be confirmed*)
- 7.30 pm Evening meal at locale of your choice, at your expense

Saturday

- 8 - 8.45am Registrations continue {to cover late arrivals}
8.45am - Annual General Meeting – all day.
5pm The Theme is: **China 60 Years on – Challenges, Changes and Partnerships** including talks by Fran O'Sullivan, Hon. Pansy Wong, and others, with various workshops
- 6.30pm Banquet
- Presentation of 'Best Branch Activity' Award
 - Celebration of 60 years anniversary of PRC.

Sunday

- 8.45am - noon Annual General Meeting continues and concludes
Noon Lunch
12:30-2.30pm Meeting of new National Executive

There will be afternoon trips organised, Fri and Sun,
to Waiwera hot-pools and guided tour of Alice Eaves Reserve

**Hopefully, you will either register to attend the
Conference (*registration form will be available soon*),
or you will volunteer to help**



**Call for Volunteers to help at the
National Conference
in Orewa, May 8-10, 2009**

The committee will be grateful to anyone who can help with the following:

- Help set up hall, Fri am [3-4 people]
- Meet & greet for opening, Fri pm [3]
- Help with registration on Friday pm and Sat am [2]
- Meet and greet delegates, Sat am [2-3]
- Assistant for Eric Dittmer, full time [1]
- Meet & greet, Sun am [2]
- Operate video & computer graphics [1]

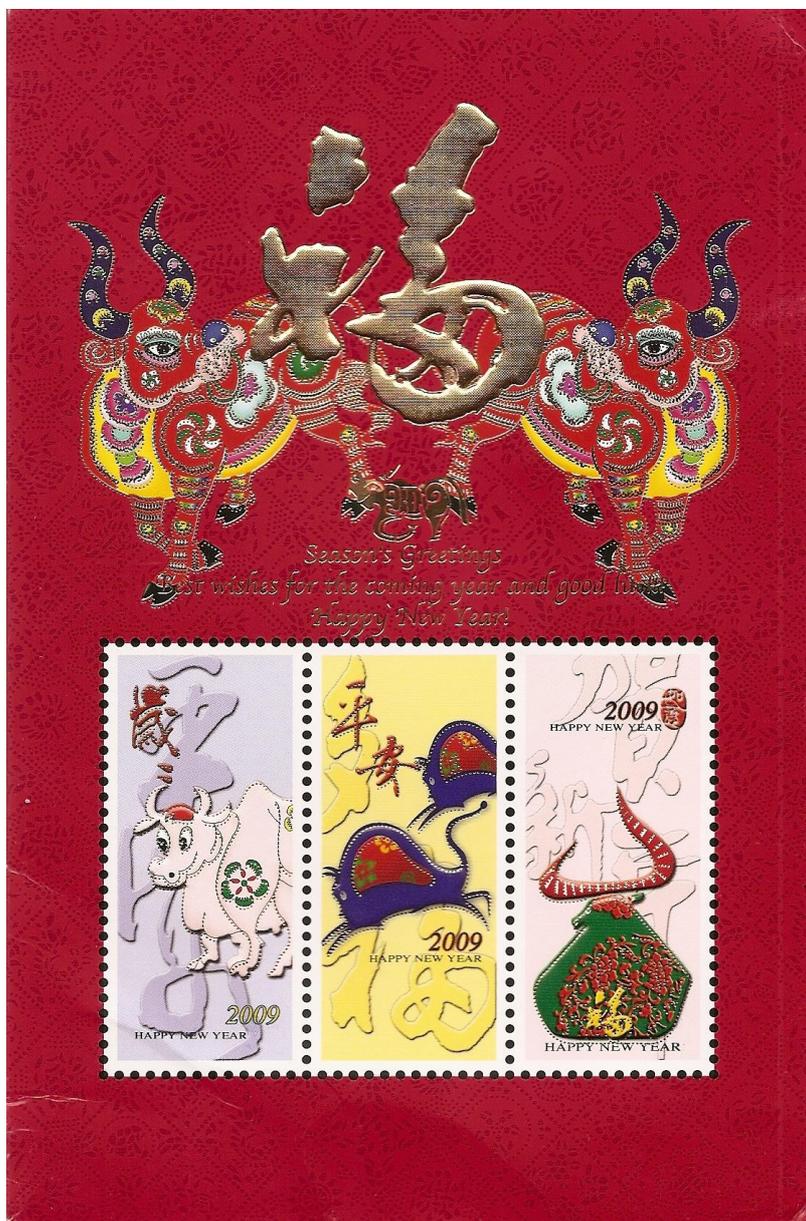
Please contact Eric Dittmer : tel: 09-428-7349
ericDittmer@xtra.co.nz

Membership News

Our present membership stands at 24, comprising (14 families; 2 Corporate/Instl.; and 8 individual).

At the last committee meeting planning for the National Conference this year continues. This will be held the 2nd weekend in May, Fri 8th–Sun 10th. The venue will be Orewa Community Hall, Orewa Sq. Various preparatory tasks were distributed between the committee members.

**Your editor wishes you all
a very happy Chinese New Year**



Programme

January 26: Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration

BBQ on Orewa beach

February 22: Talk by a Kiwi Seismic Engineer on his visit to **the Sechuan earthquake area** (*to be confirmed*)

April 23 or 30: Talk and demonstration, by Prof. Chan of the Confucius Institute on **Chinese Calligraphy and Chinese Brush Painting**

Further possibilities are not in date order as the details have yet to be established:

- Talk on recommendations for Chinese landscaping
- Talk by Graham Platt on his Chinese experiences
- Talk by Bill Wilmott
- Visit to Hamilton Museum to view reputed “Ancient Chinese junk” relic, discovered at Kawhia
- Talk by Dr Richard Grant:
An introduction to the **Asia:New Zealand Foundation**, and comment on some of the recent changes taking place in the Asian regional environment.

Forthcoming Events

最新動態

2009 (10th) Lantern Festival

Presented by: Auckland City Council and Asia Foundation of New Zealand

Date: 6, 7 & 8 February

Time: 5:00pm – Midnight everyday.

Venue: *Albert Park, Auckland City*

Admission: Free

2009 (2nd) New Zealand Chinese Photography Exhibition

Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre and The-Edge

Date: 19 April – 10 May

Opening Date & Time: @ 5:00-7:00pm on 19 April

Opening to Public: 20 April – 10 May

Venue: *Level 5, Air NZ Foyer, Aotea Centre*
Admission: Free

2009 Shanghai International Film Festival

Presented by: Chinese net and Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre

Date: 16 – 23 June (Tentative)

Venue: *Film City, Shanghai, visit Beijing and Xian*

Admission: Participation

2009 (7th) Table Tennis Tournament

Presented by: United Chinese Associations of New Zealand Inc.

Date: 19 July (Sunday)

Venue: *North Harbour Table Tennis Stadium*

Note: Pre-selection process for players starts on June 2009

2009 (8th) New Zealand Chinese Arts Exhibition

Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre and The-Edge

Date: 2 August – 24 August

Opening Date & Time: 5:00-7:00pm on 2 August

Opening to Public: 3 August – 24 August

Venue: *Art Gallery, Aotea Centre*

Admission: Free

2009 Beijing Cultural Week including Beijing Photography Exhibition and Beijing TV week

Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre and The-Edge

Date: 6 – 13 September

Press Conference and Photography

Exhibition Opening - Date & Time: 5:00-7:00pm on 6 September on *level 5 of Aotea Centre.*

Exhibition Opening to Public: 7 – 13 September on *level 5, Aotea Centre,*
Admission: free

TV Week: 6:00-6:30pm on Triangle TV and 7:00-7:30am on Free View 21 and SKY 89

Status: tentative

2009 (11th) Moon Festival and China 59th National Celebration Concert and China's Today Photography Exhibition

To be performed by Overseas and Local Chinese performers

Presented by United Chinese Associations of New Zealand Inc.

Date: 20, September 2009

Time: 3:00pm

Venue: *Town hall and Foyer of Aotea Centre*

2009 (6th) Chinese Film Festival in New Zealand

Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre and New Zealand Film Commission

Date: 1 Nov – 30 Nov 2009

Cities: *Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch. .*

2009 New Zealand Chinese Young Piano & Violin Talent Concert

Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre and Telstra Clear Pacific Event Center

Date: 2 November

Time: 3:00pm

Venue: *Genesis Energy Theatre, Telstra Clear Event Centre.*

Admission: Ticket sales

2009 (3rd) “Songs from Home Town” Concert

Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre & The-Edge

Date: 23 November 2009

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: *ASB Theatre, Aotea Centre*

Admission: Tickets for Sale

2010 First Night Auckland Celebration

Presented by: The-Edge

Date: 31 December 2009

Time: 6:00pm on 31 December 2009 – 2:00am on 1 January 2010

Venue: *Aotea Centre, Auckland City*

Admission: Free

2008 (3rd) Korean film Festival in New Zealand

Presented by: New Zealand Korean Cinema Trust

1 December – 4 December (Tentative)

Time: To be determined

SKYCITY Rialto Cinemas (Tentative)

Admission: Tickets for Sale

Statuses: Coming Up

2009 First Night Auckland Celebration

Presented by: The-Edge

31 December 2008

Time: 6:00pm on 31 December 2009 –
2:00am on 1 January 2010
Aotea Centre, Auckland City
Admission: Free