

**Newsletter February 2010  
NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY  
Hamilton Branch**

**GENERAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24th 2010  
Waikato Migrant Centre Boundary Road Fairfield  
7.30 pm**

**Speaker Phillip Yeung**

**Topic Recollections of a Migrant**

**Philip will talk about his journey, cultural differences and interacting with Kiwi over the past 14 years. Philip arrived in New Zealand with his family (wife and daughter) in April 1996. He had been working in tourism industry in Hong Kong for 16 years. He is currently working at Hamilton City Council as the Ethnic Development Advisor. He was appointed as a JP in August 2007.**

We start the year with a really good speaker covering a subject of vital importance in our increasingly multicultural ever changing society. Come. bring a friend, and help us provide a good audience for our speaker

**Editor's Comments.**

Type "The Year of the Tiger" into Google and there is an abundance of of informative reading. Here is a brief sample.

**THE YEAR OF THE TIGER**

**02/14/2010 - 02/02/2011 (Metal)**

According to the [Chinese Zodiac](#), the Year of 2010 is the Year of a Golden Tiger, which begins on February 14, 2010 and ends on February 2, 2011. The first day of the lunar New Year 2010 falls on the 14th day of February, which is Saint Valentine's Day, so it is a day the West celebrates as a lovers' day, a day of romance. To the Chinese, it is the start of the Golden Tiger Year. The Tiger is the third sign in the cycle of [Chinese Zodiac](#), which consists of 12 animal signs. It is a sign of courage. This fearless and fiery fighter is revered by the ancient Chinese as the sign that wards off the three main disasters of a household: fire, thieves and ghosts. On New Year's day itself, it is beneficial to celebrate, to be happy, to have smiling faces, and to refrain from scowling, quarreling, or criticizing anyone. Courageous, active, and self-assured. Optimistic, passionate and independent. Rebellious, dynamic, and unpredictable. Quick tempered but considerate. Affectionate but careless. The Tiger is a natural born leader and symbolizes power, passion and daring.

People born in the Year of the Tiger are generally well liked because of their charming personalities. Often, failing at a given task or being unproductive in his personal or professional life can cause a Tiger to experience a deep depression. Criticism from loved ones can also generate this type of Tiger reaction. Tigers are fond of competitions. They simply cannot pass up a challenge. They may appear cool and are unpredictable, and it would be unwise to underestimate their reactions. Natural leaders, they have a strong sense of their own dignity. They are intelligent, alert, and farsighted. Good strategists and tacticians, they often have a hidden agenda. As long as they do not risk their luck too often, and keep their restless nature under control, they will enjoy success and happiness.



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## COMING EVENTS

### Lantern Festival

#### **Yuan Xiao Jie - Lantern Festival Celebration**

**SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2010 from 7.30pm at Innes common, Hamilton Lake.**

Meet in the carpark beside the Yacht Club. All family and friends are invited to join us with their lanterns. Bring along your own picnic food or takeaways AND BRING YOUR LANTERNS. If the weather is not windy it is probably OK to have candles in the lanterns, but if it is windy it is safer to use a glow stick, or you can buy a little battery and bulb kitset from someone like Dick Smith or a hobby shop. We are walking around the lake, so if a lantern does catch fire from a candle, you can drop it in the lake. It is safer if lanterns using candles are held from the end of a stick.

Some of the Chinese owned 2 dollar shops have paper or silk lanterns for sale and the Chinese shops/supermarkets usually stock them this time of year. When it is dark enough (about 8.45pm?), we light our lanterns and walk around the lake (some may go all the way round, but others may choose to go so far and return back). The more people with lanterns the better because in the dark you can see other lanterns moving around the lake so it is a pretty sight! Don't forget spare candles/batteries/glow sticks and something to light the candles. Rain or strong winds will ruin paper or silk lanterns. It is up to you to consider the weather on the Sunday evening and make a decision whether to go or not and be sure to dress for the weather! We did make the suggestion in the January Notebook, that should enough people be interested we would consider going up to Auckland's Lantern Festival on the Saturday. However only two people signified interest so this will not take place.

**Annual Branch / Consulate Picnic Sunday March 21st  
Raglan**

**Wairere Domain**

For many years now, this has been an event where we can get together with Members of the Consulate, our friends from the Waikato Chinese Association, Chinese students and others in

the the wider Chinese community. Bring enough food to share with others, and your own eating utensils , drinks etc. It is an excellent place for kite flying and we hope to have some Chinese kites in the air,... If you have a kite bring it with you and join the fun. There is always ample time for a walk on the beach and perhaps a swim if you are so inclined. In the past most prefer to make their own way out, arriving between 11.30 and midday Should it be wet weather, your committee has alternative arrangements in place. Ring Ian 855943, Meryl 8435260 or Stan 8474504 before 10.00am

**March General Meeting** Speaker Stan Boyle

**NZCFS ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM MAY 21st -23rd here in Hamilton at the Hamilton City Council reception rooms Garden Place.**

The planning committee met on the 11<sup>th</sup> of this month and apart from fine tuning, the planning for the Conference is completed. Full details of the programme and registration form will be published in the March Newsletter. We will require people to help with the general running of the Conference, in particular assistance on the Saturday and Sunday with the catering arrangements, and on the Sunday afternoon with general cleaning and tidying up

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### **Spring Festival or Valentine's Day. A Dilemma for Lovers**

NANJING: As Chinese New Year, or Spring Festival, coincides with Valentine's Day on February 14, many young Chinese have struggled to choose between their family and their lover. "In light of Chinese traditions, I should make my way back home and savor the moment of family reunion on the first day of the Lunar Year of the Tiger," said 27-year-old Chen Xin, a business analyst in Jinan, capital of eastern Shandong Province. "But it will be a great pity if I spend Valentine's Day without my girlfriend," Chen said, adding that the couple's hometowns were about 200 km away from each other in north China's Hebei Province.

Zi Jia, a 25-year-old postgraduate from Beijing-based Renmin University of China, also felt unhappy about spending the romantic day alone.

I know for sure that my boyfriend and I can't be together on that day, because his parents want him home in Wuhan (capital of central Hubei Province), and I will be in Jinan," Zi said.

Many Chinese youth would have faced the same dilemma. China's so called "floating" population hit 180 million at the end of 2009, about 150 million of which were migrant workers, said Ma Jiantang, head of the National Bureau of Statistics earlier last month. The coinciding of the two festivals is a kind of culture clash, and it would understandably present young Chinese, who have been greatly exposed to western culture, with a hard choice, said Li Hao, vice-secretary of the Shandong Folklore Society. Despite all the reluctance, most young Chinese still put Spring Festival ahead of Valentine's Day.

According to an online poll conducted by Sina.com and MSN from January 29 to February 8, 59 percent of about 1,500,000 voters said they would be with their family on February 14 while 29 percent of them planned to be with their lover "You see how important Spring Festival is to Chinese just by taking a glimpse at the crowds at the railway stations," Chen said. "Spring Festival to us is what Christmas is to westerners." "As long as a couple love each other, they could spend everyday like it was Valentine's Day," said A Lang, a 24-year-old barber in Nanjing, capital of eastern Jiangsu Province, whose hometown was in rural Huaihua of central Hunan Province. A Lang regarded spending the Spring Festival with his family as something he must do each year. But he has promised to make it up to his girlfriend by taking her to a lantern show after the Spring Festival.

Valentine's Day is set on February 14 on the solar calendar, whereas Chinese New Year falls on the first day of the Chinese lunar calendar. The date of Chinese New Year on the solar calendar changes every year. The two festivals coincided three times last century, in 1915, 1934 and 1953. The next time will be in 2048.

(Reporting by Xinhua correspondents Zhang Zhanpeng in Nanjing and Liu Baosen in Jinan)

