

Paddy's Markets celebrate the Year of the Dog

Famous Dogs: Winston Churchill, Michael Jackson, Madonna

1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006

According to Chinese legend, the twelve animals quarreled one day as to who was to head the cycle of years. The Gods were asked to decide and they held a contest: whoever could reach the opposite bank of the river would be first, and the rest of the animals would receive their years according to their finish.

All the twelve animals gathered at the riverbank and jumped in. Unknown to the ox, the rat had jumped on its back. Just as the ox was about to leap ashore, the rat jumped off its back and won the race. The pig, that was very lazy, ended up last. That is why the rat is the first year of the animal cycle, the ox is second, and the pig last.

Dog people are honest, faithful and sincere. They respect tradition and value honour, and enjoy helping people. Dogs are righteous, and always is the first to speak out against injustice. They not good at socializing with friends, and rarely shine in company, but are intelligent, caring and a good listeners.

Loyal, faithful and honest, they have the most profound sense of duty. You can count on them and they will never let you down. In addition, as good listeners, the Dogs are very reliable in keeping secrets for others. They simply does not like to gossip. The Dogs are agreeable companions - when they are in a good mood. But when panic strikes, they can turn nasty, and bark until they are tired. They can be judgmental, defensive and fussy if you rub them the wrong way, but as long as you know how to pet and massage them, Dogs make absolutely the best and honourable companion on earth. Dogs are born old and get younger as they age. They take everything very seriously.

Loyal Dogs make outstanding captains of industry, priests, educators, critics, or doctors. However, whatever their career choice, it will have in them a spokespeople whose ideals will be profound and often original.

They care little for wealth, but somehow always seem to have money. They are compatible with those born in the Years of the Horse, Tiger, and Rabbit.

The Chinese animal signs are incorporated in 12-year cycle used for dating the years. They represent a cyclical concept of time, rather than the Western linear concept of time. The Chinese lunar calendar is based on the cycles of the moon, and is constructed in a different fashion to the Western solar calendar. On the Chinese calendar, the beginning of the year falls between late January and early February. The Chinese have adopted the Western calendar since 1911, but the lunar calendar is still used for festive occasions such as the Chinese New Year. Many Chinese calendars are printed with both the solar dates and the Chinese lunar dates.

In traditional China, dating methods were cyclical and this popular folk method was reflected in the twelve animal signs. Each year is assigned an animal name or "sign" according to a repeating cycle: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Boar. Therefore, every twelve years the same animal name or "sign" reappears.

A cultural sidelight of the animal signs in Chinese folklore is that horoscopes have developed around the animal signs, much like monthly horoscopes in the West have been developed for the different moon signs, Pisces, Aries, etc. For example, a Chinese horoscope may predict that a person born in the Year of the Horse is "cheerful, popular, and loves to compliment others". These horoscopes are amusing, but not regarded seriously by the Chinese people.

To celebrate Chinese New Year 2006, Sydney's Paddy's Markets will be a major sponsor of the City Of Sydney Chinese New Year Festival. Paddy's Markets will host a variety of events including fireworks displays and dragon dance as well roving entertainment, fruit carving and you have the opportunity to take in the history of Sydney Markets by joining one of the market tours.

For event times call the infoline on 130 361 589 or visit www.paddysmarkets.com.au

For further details contact:

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Sydney's Paddy's Markets Chinese New Year Event Schedule

Location : Flemington	Market	Times	
Sunday, January 29	Sydney's Paddy's Markets	11.00 – 2.00pm	Blessing of the Markets Fireworks, roving entertainment including
Monday, January 30	Sydney Markets	7.00am – 10.00am	2 x Lion Dance will go through Flower Market, Banana Road Produce and Growers Markets
Friday, February 3	Sydney's Paddy's Markets	11.30am – 12.30pm	Lion Dance
Saturday, February 4	Sydney's Paddy's Markets	10.00am – 11.30pm	Lion Dance

Location : Haymarket	Market	Event	Times
Thursday, January 26	Sydney's Paddy's Markets	Australia Day	
Friday, January 27	Sydney's Paddy's Markets	Paddy's Wheel of Fortune F&V carver in Dixon Street	10.00am – 4.00pm
Saturday, January 28	Sydney's Paddy's Markets	Paddy's Wheel of Fortune F&V carver in Dixon Street	10.00am – 4.00pm
Sunday, January 29	Sydney's Paddy's Markets	Paddy's Wheel of Fortune F&V carver in Dixon Street	10.00am – 4.00pm
Saturday, February 4	Sydney's Paddy's Markets	Market Tours	11.00am – 12noon
Sunday, February 5	Sydney's Paddy's Markets	Market Tours Chinese New Year Parade Entertainment in Market	11.00am – 12 noon 10.00am – 1.30pm