



MANAGER'S UPDATE

Dear All

Happy New Year – We are not too late with these good wishes as Chinese New Year has just begun and this year is the year of the Rooster. Our social support worker 'Denise' has given us a brief explanation of this celebration on the following page.



Following our correspondence of 27th October, relating to client contributions for services provided I would like to thank you for being understanding and responding positively to the request. I just want to reassure you once more that no one will be disadvantaged due to financial hardship.

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Recently you would have received a letter outlining the reasons for a possible merger with the Junction Neighbourhood Centre (JNC) which is proposed for completion on 1 April 2017.

We have constantly mentioned the changes being imposed on all organisations relating to our source of funding in the nearby future (2018) and the challenges we are facing. Being a small local community service we are not viable enough to survive in the long term in the light of these changes.

Neighbour Connections receives assistance from the City of Sydney through its Accommodation Grants Program

We believe and take pride in the service we provide to the community and we would like it to continue and expand well beyond 2018. The decision for the merger was not taken lightly by the Board. A great deal of work on the

OUR BOARD FOR 2017**Board Executive**

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pros and cons went into making sure that the service we chose shared our core values.

The Board wants to secure a long-term future for the work undertaken by Neighbour Connections (and previously by RICHSS) some 30 years ago. The transfer of Neighbour Connections services to the JNC will bring many benefits for our clients:

- It will give us the security of being part of a larger organisation
- At the same time, all services currently delivered by Neighbour Connections will continue to run from the centre at Glebe to the local communities.
- There will be opportunities to improve and extend services by sharing knowledge and resources
- We will be able to reduce some overhead costs and use more of our resources for service delivery
- We will have the benefit of a larger staff team with specialist skills such as languages and skills in mental health, disability and dementia and staff coverage when workers are on leave
- We will have access to The JNC's dedicated volunteer recruitment and training service

For the clients of Neighbour Connections, nothing will change – services and the fees will remain the same. Please do not hesitate to call me should you have any questions or comments you wish to make. Therese



Scenes
from
Christmas
at Bonnie
Doon



雞年2017 及春節的由來
 Year Of The Rooster
 2017 And About
 Chinese New Year



英勇善戰、勇猛頑強的雞代表著世間新一天的生機，不論陰晴雪雨都守分報曉。在中國十二生肖的傳說裡，因為雞每天在黎明把人們從睡夢中喚醒的功勞，玉帝摘下一朵殿前花戴在它頭上，把它加入十二生肖之一賜封為神。雞在十二生肖中排行第十，在古代中國曆法一天十三個小時中的酉時，即下午五時至七時稱為雞時。還有一個雞可驅邪的傳說，由於雞鳴代表天亮，只能在黑夜活動的鬼魅，最怕聽到雞鳴，所以江南的人們在春節在門戶上張貼雞畫來辟邪，保護家宅平安。

As a brave and valiant fighter, rooster also represents vitality of a new day, for rain or shine it heralds the dawn of the day. In the Chinese zodiac legend, as a recognition of rooster's hard work in waking up all humans at dawn, the Heavenly Jade Emperor crowned the rooster with a brightly red blossom picked from the heavenly palace to grant its 10th place among the 12 divine zodiac animals and as a consequence, ancient Chinese calendar refers to the 10th/13 hours which is the 'You' Hour between 5 – 7 pm as Rooster Hours. There is another Chinese legend about rooster's power in expelling evils due to the fearful of dawn by the evil spirits from darkness. People from the southern side of the Yangtze River often stuck pictures of rooster on their doors as a safeguard for year round peace.

中國人有一個新年的民間傳說Nian, Chu Xi, 每年在春節的時候，一種叫年或夕的凶殘的猛獸會出來吃人，但這猛獸懼怕紅色、火光及巨響。祖先為了躲避年獸，就在除夕這一天，就把所有家人集合在一起吃飯，補充體力預備跟年獸搏鬥，家家戶戶在大門上貼上紅色的春聯、掛起紅燈籠、在傍晚時燃起煙火爆竹、霹靂啪啦，讓年獸不敢進屋吃人。把年獸嚇走後，就過了年這一關，第二天大年初一清晨，首先早起預備祭品上香貢案感謝上天保佑免受年獸所害，然後按輩份疏遠之序向家人及親戚朋友互相問候是否平安，即是拜年。這個有關年獸的傳說及習俗也成了中國人春節的傳統，過了年這一關就平安大吉了。

There is an ancient legend about Chinese New Year. A fierceful beast called 'Nian' or 'Xi' emerged from the woods to feed on human beings, in spite of that, it was fearful of the colour of red, flame of open fire and loud noises. In order to flee from the danger, ancestors first gathered everyone in the family for dinner on the day to remove 'Xi' (i.e. New Year Eve is called Chu Xi) to prepare for the battle, stuck brightly red couplets on all the doors, hung up red lanterns and made loud banging noises by 'Exploding Bamboo' (Firecrackers) in the evening, 'Nian' was frightened and retreated back into the woods. First thing in the morning on the next day, after passing this disastrous day, people would prepare tributes and incenses to show the heavenly god their gratitude for keeping them safe from 'Nian', after that they would make visits to families, relatives and friends according to seniority and closeness to check each other's safety, that is called 'Bai Nian'. This Chinese ancient legend and customs has become the traditions of Chinese Spring Festival, as long as 'Nian' is gone, it is safe.



TUESDAY SMALL GROUPS FEB TO APRIL 2017

Date	Morning group 10 – 12.30am	Afternoon group 1pm - 4pm
Feb 7	Museum of Contemporary Arts (free entry)	Gardeners Lodge Cafe
Feb 21	Sydney Park walk & cafe	Bitton Cafe
Feb 28	Strickland House, Neilson Park all day & Parsley Bay reserve (free entry)	(All day outing) 10am to 3.30pm
Mar 7	Centennial Park bird & bat watching and Cafe	Prince Alfred Park Pool Cafe
Mar 21	Bronte Beach Walk/or sit	Redfern Park Cafe
Mar 28	Powerhouse Museum & Darling Harbour stroll	(All day outing) \$12 or \$8 concession
April 4	IKEA Tempe	Gardeners Lodge Cafe
Apr 18	Bunnings Alexandria	Café 77 Glebe



TUESDAY YOUNG AT HEART GROUP

Date	Group (10am – 3pm)	Cost
Feb 14	BBQ Redfern Park	\$10
Mar 14	BBQ Redfern Park	\$10
April 11	BBQ Redfern Park	\$10

MONDAY BUS OUTINGS FEB TO APRIL 2017

	1 st & 3 rd Monday	2 nd & 4 th Monday
FEB	Lane Cove Nat Park BBQ or North Ryde RSL Club	Abbotsford Park BBQ or Canada Bay Club
MAR	Olympic Park Homebush BBQ or Bankstown RSL	Malabar Park BBQ or Yarra Bay Sailing Club
APRIL	Sir Joseph Banks BBQ or St George Sailing Club	Bobbin Head BBQ or Ryde ex-Services Club

