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**WELLINGTON CHINESE SPORTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE  
PO BOX 541, WELLINGTON**

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# Wellington Chinese Sports & Cultural Centre Inc



## Newsletter March 2002

What a bumper issue!!

I can't believe that Easter is nearly upon us. ...the Easter Sports Committee are into the final stages of planning for the tournament that is being held in Wellington this year. Read on for more details.

AND....It's been a busy wee period between newsletters. We've held a **special meeting**, of which you can read the outcome of further on, the traditional **WCSCC Christmas break up**, celebrated the **Chinese New Year**, and there's a lot more to come in the next few months – so read on and see what your fellow members have been up to.

### EASTER TOURNAMENT NEWS:

Practice times for basketball are as follows:

Miniball : 10:30am to 12:00pm  
U21 Women: 12:00pm to 1:30pm  
Open Women: 1:30pm to 3:00 pm  
U21 Mens: 3:00pm to 4:30pm  
Overs Mens and Veterans: 4:30pm to 6:00pm

For more information please contact:

**Steven Young**, Basketball Co-ordinator

Ph (w) 474-2716 (W), (h) 5772-332 e-mail: [s.young@enza.co.nz](mailto:s.young@enza.co.nz)

**Paul Wong She**, Veterans Basketball Co-ordinator Ph (h) 477-3100

**Lenny Loh**, Miniball Co-ordinator Ph (h) 479-7509, e-mail [lenny.loh@oracle.com](mailto:lenny.loh@oracle.com)

Touch Rugby:

The Touch Rugby Co-ordinator is **Simon Aing**, ph (h) 2324397, (m) 021 437 961

Email: [simonaing@hotmail.com](mailto:simonaing@hotmail.com).

Please contact Simon if you have any questions relating to touch rugby.

Volleyball:

The Volleyball Co-ordinator (for the mean time) is **Alan Chan**, ph 383 5713

(work), 478 5364 (home), 021 420 614, email alan at: [achan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:achan@xtra.co.nz)

Indoor Netball:

The indoor netball co-ordinator is **Martin Lau** and all inquiry can be directed to: martin.lau@brc.co.nz

Golf:

**Robert Ting** Ph: (04) 478-6253 or 021 488-023

Email: rjting@actrix.co.nz

**Major Yee** Ph: (04) 586-3100 or 021 888-912

Email: majoryee.huttcam@xtra.co.nz

Lawn Bowls:

Organisers: **Nelson Young** Ph: (04) 386-2233

**Brian Loon** Ph: (04) 388-2258

Veterans Activities:

There are sports and social activities planned for the weekend – for more details please contact Stephen Lau: stephen\_lauNZ@lccg.com

## SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING – 25 NOVEMBER 2002.

At a Special General Meeting held on 25 November 2001, the Constitution of the Centre was amended in regard to membership. The amendments are:-

1. *“Membership is to be open to descendents of an ethnic Chinese person up to and including the fourth generation, plus their children, their spouse or de facto partner as defined by the Property Relations Act 1976. A Chinese person is defined as a person born in China or Taiwan.”*

This amendment clearly defines who is eligible for Centre membership, and includes the fourth generation descendent of a Chinese person plus the children of the fourth generation person where in each generation the person of that generation was married to or was in a de facto relationship with a non Chinese person. We believe that this definition is clear and easily provable. In the case of a separation or divorce the non Chinese spouse of a Chinese person would be eligible for membership.

2. *“A new category of membership to be created – “friends of the Centre”. Such members would not have voting rights at General, Annual, Special or Extraordinary meetings of the Centre. Such members would have the right to participate in certain activities as from time to time resolved by the General Committee.”*

*The purpose of this amendment is to recognise the support of and encourage the participation in Centre activities of those persons who would not otherwise qualify as a Chinese person but who nevertheless wish to be a part of our family. Such “family members” would not have full voting rights or be able to participate in Chinese tournaments but would be able to participate and have participated in many other ways, such as in representing the Centre in activities in the general community, for example in cultural performances and in sporting teams.*

*In general the amended rules are meant to be as inclusive as far as possible in the eligibility of persons to be members of the Centre.*

## POLL TAX – CHINESE IMMIGRANTS ACT 1881

### WHERE DOES THE CENTRE (WCSCC) STAND?

The Poll Tax issue has been raised again by actions of Government.

Through the media over the past few weeks everyone will now be aware of the **Poll Tax – Chinese Immigrants Act of 1881**, that the New Zealand Government at the time in 1881, decided it was appropriate to impose a Poll Tax on Chinese immigrants coming to New Zealand as a means of deliberately controlling the numbers of Chinese arriving in New Zealand.

No other ethnic group was subjected to pay such a tax to enter the country.

The initial amount was ten pounds per person, and was raised in 1886 to one hundred pounds.

The tax was suspended in 1934, and was abolished by the Fraser Government in 1944. Walter Nash, then Minister of Finance, who moved the Bill to abolish the Poll Tax Act acknowledged then the 'injustice done to the Chinese people through the imposition of the Poll Tax'.

Members of the General Committee were made aware of the Poll Tax issue being raised when late in November 2001 some members as individual members of the Wellington Chinese Association (WCA) received an invitation to attend a meeting on 1 December 2001 to discuss the Poll Tax issue. Others became aware of the issue through an article in the Wellington Chinese Association's December Newsletter.

The meeting on 1 December was held by WCA at the request of the New Zealand Chinese Association (NZCA) to discuss a draft submission, and to gather information for a final submission on the Poll Tax to be forwarded to the Minister of Ethnic Affairs, Hon George Hawkins, by Xmas 2001.

At its monthly meeting in December, your General Committee resolved to write to the President of WCA setting out its views. The WCSCC General Committee was not able to consult with all members before making a response to WCA because of the extremely tight timeframe, but felt it had a duty to do so because of the fact that a large majority of our members are direct descendants of Chinese immigrants who paid the Poll Tax all those years ago.

The WCSCC General Committee is fully aware there are some very strongly held views by members on the matter of the Poll Tax - both for an apology and financial compensation, and against raising the matter at all.

The General Committee's view is that the families of descendants who actually paid the Poll Tax must be consulted before any action is taken by Government or by any group that claims to represent them. Members of the General Committee were also concerned about the potential backlash and resentment from other groups in the community, and were also concerned that the matter could become an election issue for political parties in 2002.

The undue haste shown by Government in seeking a submission from NZCA by 25<sup>th</sup> December 2001 clearly indicated that the whole process of consultation had not been thought through very carefully or sensitively.

The manner and circumstances in which the request for the submission was made was also of some concern.

Our president's letter in December 2001 to the President of WCA expressed the view that WCSCC would support pursuit of this matter with Government to seek an acknowledgement of the wrongs of the past, but would not support any moves for financial compensation from Government. The President of NZCA was also sent a copy of this letter. We have never been advised whether our views were taken into consideration in the NZCA's representations to the government.

In January of this year when it was learnt that the Prime Minister was to make an announcement on Tuesday 12 February, Chinese New Year's Day, WCSCC in conjunction with Tung Jung Association of NZ, Seyip Association of NZ, and Dragons Sports & Social Club wrote a joint letter to the Prime Minister outlining our concerns that the Poll Tax issue was being handled with undue haste, without a proper process, and without adequate and direct consultation with the families and descendants of the Chinese immigrants who actually paid the Poll Tax.

As a response to this letter, we believe the Prime Minister agreed to qualify her apology to the Chinese of New Zealand with an undertaking that she would meet with key representatives of the descendants to discuss the next step in this process of reconciliation.

On 1 March 2002, a joint letter from WCSCC, Tung Jung Association, Seyip Association, Poon Fah Association, and Dragon Sports & Social Club was sent to Prof Goh, President of NZCA, inviting him to meet with representatives of the five organizations to discuss its (NZCA's) role in claiming to represent NZ Chinese, the next further steps in the process of reconciliation, and that the five organizations expect to be party to and part of any further consultations with Government on the Poll Tax issue.

As one of the larger Chinese community organizations in New Zealand whose members are mainly descended from Chinese immigrants who paid the Poll Tax, your General Committee feels it has a duty to keep its members informed of issues which affect Chinese New Zealanders, because up to until now information on this current Poll Tax issue and negotiations with Government has been known to only an extremely small number of people.

We believe the processes of consultation and negotiations on any issues which affect Chinese New Zealanders must be clear, open, frank, and transparent at all times if they are to have any substance of credibility and acceptance.

At some stage in the near future it may be necessary to convene meetings to enable members to discuss their views and opinions on this Poll Tax issue.

WCSCC General Committee will keep its membership informed on any further developments on this issue.

*Peter Kohing – WCSCC General Committee*



## A GIFT FOR THE WCSCC

The WCSCC is fortunate to receive a Lions head and a clowns costume from the Taiwan Economic & Cultural Office (TECO) to mark the occasion of its 25th Anniversary celebrations in June this year.

We gratefully accept this gift with many thanks and are assured that our cultural group will put this to good use.

The new Lion Dance Head has to be officially presented to the Centre by the Director of TECO, and the 'eyes dotted' to 'give it life' and before it can be used to perform in public.

We are planning to hold a presentation function, to which all members of the Centre are invited, at the Centre on Sunday 28 April at 2.00 pm.

This will be followed by an informal afternoon tea. It would be a pleasure to see members turn up to watch this celebration, as it doesn't happen too often.

## 1977 – WHAT WERE YOU DOING?

A QUICK LESSON IN HISTORY: BY JUSTINE KOHING

In 1976 I was two years old. I can bet though, that the majority of my fathers age group were spending most weekends at a building site in Mount Albert road, gibbing, painting, varnishing floors, and their kids were out on the stadium floor putting putty into holes and watching the progression of what we now know as our stadium taking shape.

1977 saw the fruition realised of a vision by some very wise men in our community, most of which were our fathers and grandfathers which has now come to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and I've been privileged to have been able to participate as the Centre continued to expand. And yes, Uncle Victor as you keep reminding everyone, before the Eastern lounge extension was built and before the alterations to the kitchen and the rear of the stadium were completed, I used to sleep on my orange bean bag in the pantry while you, my folks and all your friends did their thing in the kitchen for the weddings and the dinners that were big in the 1980's. I'm lucky to count the Centre as my home away from home – so, here we are 25 years on, I'm 27, experiencing the growth of grey hair (shock horror) and now we're celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the opening in 1977. It's definitely been a pleasure to help out on the basketball committee at 15 years old, sitting at the feet of Murray, Malcolm and Virginia and now in my current role as secretary of the WCSCC I'm still learning from those that helped to build our Club.

So.....What's in store for our members over Queens Birthday weekend?



To celebrate this momentous occasion - a weekend of sports, fun and social activities is being organised during the Queens Birthday weekend in conjunction with the Centre's traditional Queen Birthday Basketball Tournament.

Keep the weekend free and come to the events.

The Programme of events is as follows.

### Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2002

7pm - Cocktail Function and Memorabilia. – more details will be sent as they are finalized,

### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2002

Sporting Activities throughout the day. - Golf,Tennis,Bowls.

6pm onwards - Silver Jubilee Dine & Dance including a Childrens Cultural Performance.

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2002

8.30am to 2pm - Mini Ball and Grand Finals of Family/Teams Sporting Contest.

6.30pm Dinner at the King Wah Chinese Restaurant

### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2002

12pm Barbecue at the Centre.( Finals day of the Basketball Tournament)

Further Details will be given in the next newsletter but there will be a limited number of tickets available at some of the functions.

More details will be sent out in a special update within the next few weeks – but you can think about these things in the interim:

1. Making up some family teams to participate in the family games.
2. Digging out some photos for the memorabilia night and display boards.

If you have any queries please contact Victor Wu 4773 974 (h) or on email : wu@netlink.co.nz

## WHAT A PAINT JOB:



Have you checked out the new paint job at the centre? It looks fantastic – we have also installed some new lights to the stadium so that its much more brighter to play in – so you have no excuses for missing your shots.

And..... while we're on the subject of shooting hoops – you may have noticed that we have installed a new hoop late last season – it has passed a rigorous trial period and we have ordered 5 more hoops to be installed before the Easter tournament. And if you read on to the miniball section you'll hear about the new miniball hoop system that's just been put in!



## 2002 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Members are invited to attend the Annual General meeting which will be held at the Centre on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2002 at 2pm.

### Business:

1. Confirmation of minutes of 2001 AGM and November Special General Meeting.
2. Presidents Report
3. Financial Report
4. Sub Committee Reports
5. Election of Officers
6. Appointment of Auditors
7. General.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL - IT WAS A BLAST!!!!

The inaugural Wellington Chinese New Year Festival was celebrated on Sunday 17 February 2002 by thousands of Wellingtonians who flocked to Courtenay Place to view the parade and the two hours of cultural entertainment that followed.



The cultural concert which took place at the end of Courtenay Place, outside the Calzone Café, started off with a bang, literally, as two strings of firecrackers were let off. This is a tradition of Chinese New Year, with the firecrackers warding off bad spirits. The louder the noise, the more good luck is brought to the community. If the noise was anything to go by, 2002, The Year of the Horse is going to be full of good luck!!!

The Festival was officially opened by the Mayor of Wellington City - Kerry Prendergast, and the cultural entertainment "hosted" by Raybon Kan. Cultural items were then presented by the Anglican Chinese Centre, Wellington Chinese Operatic Society, Chuan Style Tai Chi Group, and of course the Centre's own groups from YYY, the Cantonese class, and Lion Dance Troupe.

The Festival was a great success, with photos of the event appearing in both the Dominion and Evening Post the next day. There are some great photos which were taken on the day by Neil McKenzie, who was commissioned by the organising committee. These can be seen on his website: <http://www.onlinefotos.com/neil>

It was great to see so many people from both within the Chinese community and members of the general public come out and support the Festival. Our thanks to everybody who helped to make this the huge success that it was. The Mayor has promised to work with us next year to put on an even bigger and better celebration... Watch this space for details as planning for next year gets underway!!!

## CANTONESE CLASSES

We have had a break so far this year, with Mandy returning to China and Hong Kong for a well earned holiday. Classes will recommence in Term 2, on Saturday 13 April 2002. If you are interested in enrolling for these, please ring Linda Lim on 234 8849, or Jeremy Wah on 934 8330.



## LION DANCING TROUPE



The Lion Dancing Troupe have been really busy with various performances this year, with the highlight being visits to Chinese Restaurants participating in the Chinese New Year Festival. Six restaurants came on board and the troupe paid them all a visit on the Saturday night, and Sunday afternoon of the weekend of the Festival. The lion was very well received by the diners at the restaurants, and we even had some members of the public stop in to view the festivities.

With the donation of a new Lion head, tail and costume by the Taipei Economic Office, the Centre is hoping to get an adult Lion Dance team together. Its hard work, so the more men the better!!!! If you are interested in learning this very traditional dance, please contact Pam Young on 380 9069, or Lenny Loh on 479 7509.

Written by Linda Lim

## POINT OF VIEW – AS I SEE IT



As written by Peter Kohing

### Eligibility Rules for Participation in WCSCC Tournaments, and Membership Criteria.

It was most pleasing to see so many members attend the Special Meeting held at the Centre on 25 November 2001 to discuss the very important issues of Eligibility to Participate in Centre Tournaments, and the Criteria for Membership.

Over recent times the NZCA eligibility criteria we have adhered to has given many members much concern that the interpretation of the criteria actually prevented some of our Centre members from participating in our own tournaments.

At the Special Meeting, members discussed recommendations put forward by a Sub-committee that reviewed the issues and criteria that were giving concern to members.

I am extremely pleased to report that the recommendations by the Sub-committee were passed unanimously at the Meeting.

In other words – we (WCSCC) now have **our own set of rules and criteria of eligibility** for members and teams to participate in our tournaments and membership.

We will require Clubs and teams wishing to participate in our tournaments to abide by our criteria for eligibility. This will be a condition of entry to our tournaments.

The recommendations which were accepted and passed at the Special Meeting included –

- Definition of a Chinese person
- Definition of 'a person of Chinese descent'
- Level of proof required
- Partners in a de facto relationship
- Former spouses
- A category of "Friends of the Centre" membership to be created.

A full copy of the resolutions passed at the Special Meeting are found on page 2 within this newsletter.

I am confident that these new rules and criteria will be in place for our annual Queen's Birthday tournament in June.

Our thanks go to our Sub Committee that comprised - Eric Sue, Graham Young, Vivienne Ching, Mark Chiu, Victor Wu, and Peter Kohing for their work over many weeks in reviewing these issues.

Your Centre's General Committee should be pleased and proud in making the effort and to be taking a lead in understanding and recognizing the current social climate in NZ, and within our Chinese community, - and to be seen to be meeting the needs and requirements of our membership and community.

## Chinese New Year – Year of the Horse - Celebrations – February 2002

Gong xi fa cai, Goong hee faat choy, Xin nian kuai li....

Chinese New Year – Year of the Horse - actually fell on Tuesday 12 February this year, and this posed a bit of a dilemma – do we celebrate the occasion during the weekend before, or during the weekend after?

The answer was quite easily answered when our YYY and Cultural Group were invited by the Wellington City Council to organize and coordinate a first ever Chinese New Year street parade through Wellington's Courtenay Place on Sunday 17 February to be followed by an outdoor concert as part of the Wellington's Summer City programme.

And just on 300 Centre members, families, friends, and relatives, wanted to join in a celebratory Chinese New Year dinner after the parade and concert to welcome the beginning of the Year of the Horse.

Our only problem was that the Regal Restaurant we had booked in November could only seat a maximum of 190 – 200 people. Linda Lim came up with the solution of having another restaurant as near as possible to the Regal to accommodate the extra people.

On the night we had 19 tables filled at the Regal, and 101 adults and children seated at the Peking House Restaurant – the menus were as similar as possible with a special menu for the children, red packets were distributed, and the same raffles sold at both venues. President Kevin and Vice president Victor made their official appearances at both venues before dinner, and when the raffles were drawn communications with the Regal were maintained as MC Eric described it - 'by satellite' as Kevin relayed the winning numbers to people at the Peking House by mobile phone - unfortunately all the winning numbers were sold to diners at the Regal this time.

The dinner was a great ending to a fabulously successful day – a well received parade where people were standing 4- 6 deep on both sides of Courtenay Place between Taranaki St and Cambridge Terrace, a concert performed in front of thousands of Wellingtonians during which all the performers received sustained applause, and an enjoyable dinner with family and friends – a wonderful day.

Next year? A bigger parade of course, and an even bigger stage and venue for the concert. There are whispers in City Council circles that either Blair Street or Allen Street could be closed off – such was the impression made on our city administrators!

Appreciation and thanks go to Black Ink Holdings, Gloria's, and Hoon's Foodmarket for their generous support in providing prizes for the multi draw raffle. And well done Jill Ford, Linda Lim, and Steph Timms and your great team of helpers/performers for organizing Wellington's first ever Chinese New Year Street Parade and Concert.

## **Ballroom & New Vogue Dancing Sessions at the Centre on Sunday evenings**

By the time this newsletter is received this block of dancing sessions will be underway, however for members' information about this Centre activity here is the news about what everyone has been up to:

### **WCSCC – Geoff Hunter Dance Class Group**

#### ***Update and information for WCSCC members and friends - 2 February 2002***

Beginning Sunday 24 February 2002, Geoff is able to offer the following programme for **seven** weeks  
Beginners (Level 1) Group - 6.30 to 8.00 pm this will include half an hour of consolidation teaching

*Ballroom:* e.g. Waltz, Rhythm Foxtrot, and Quickstep.

*Latin American:* e.g. Cha Cha Cha, Rumba,

*New Vogue: Gypsy Tap  
Jive/Rock n Roll*

**Intermediate (Level 2) Group – 7.00 to 8.30 pm**

*Ballroom: English Foxtrot, Waltz, and Quickstep  
Latin American: Tango  
Jive/Rock n Roll*

People who have **completed** a Beginners (Level 1) course with Geoff are able to join the Intermediate (Level 2) Group. The Intermediate Group will begin at 7.00 pm **AND** are welcome and recommended to attend (free of charge) the Beginners Group lessons starting at 6.30 pm to revise/practise and consolidate their skills before starting their Intermediate Class lessons at 7.00 pm. The first half hour will overlap with the last half hour of the Beginners Group lessons.

**Advanced Group - 8.00 to 9.30 pm**

*Viennese Waltz, Twilght Waltz, Merrilyn, Charmaine, Parma, Tangoette,*

People who have recently been in Geoff's Advanced Tuition Group and who have also attended studio dance lessons during the past 6 months are able to join the Advanced Group **AND** are welcome and recommended to also attend (free of charge) **both** the Beginner's Group lessons starting at 6.30 pm **AND** Intermediate Group lessons starting at 7.00 pm to revise, practise, consolidate their skills before starting their Advanced Group lessons at 8.00 pm. The first half hour will overlap with the last half hour of the Intermediate Group lessons.

The seventh session on 14<sup>th</sup> April is planned to be an informal 'social dance evening' where everyone can 'practise' their dancing and ask Geoff and his team for assistance.

Cost of these 7 sessions will be \$65.00 pp payable in full at the first lesson on 24 February 2002.

This is an ideal opportunity for everyone to learn some dances, or for those who already know some dances to brush up on those dance steps you may have forgotten.  
And for the more able dancers - to learn some different/new steps and techniques...

Geoff is a well-known and experienced dancing teacher in the Eastern suburbs. He has a very enthusiastic and learner friendly approach to his teaching, which puts everyone quickly at ease, and his 'pupils' really enjoy attending his classes.

**The seven Sunday nights are – 24<sup>th</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup> /14<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Mark these dates in your calendars and let your friends know too.**

*If you are interested in joining us on Sunday nights when we start another block of lessons, please give your names to either Mary Ng/Mavis Hoon/Audrey Kohing, or contact Peter Kohing, phone 4785 865, or email: [kohing@actrix.gen.nz](mailto:kohing@actrix.gen.nz)*

**Note: People wishing to participate in these dance sessions must join up for the whole seven sessions. The whole fee of \$65 per person is payable on the first lesson.**

**- Peter Kohing**



## The Basketball Diaries:

During the Christmas break up at the Pines, the basketball committee awarded prizes to the following people.

**2001- Most Improved Player – Mens** - Anthony Chiu  
**2001 – Most Valuable Player – Mens** – Jared Hoon  
**2001 – Most Improved Player – Womens** – Bridget Wong  
**2001 – Most Valuable Player – Womens** – Rebecca Wu  
**2001 – Most Improved Player – Mens Unders** – James Cheung  
**2001 – Most Valuable Player – Mens Unders** - Kieran Ng  
**2001 – Most Improved Player – Womens Unders** – Amanda Eng  
**2001 – Most Valuable Player – Womens Unders** – Natasha Young  
**Warren Moon Memorial Trophy for Excellent Sportsmanship 2001** – Richard Chiu

Congratulations Everyone!

### 2002 SEASON:

The WCSCC basketball season usually begins a week or two after the Easter Tournament – please diary Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> as being the first practice –

College Guys	12.30 – 2.00pm
College Girls and Womens Overs (combined practice)	2.00 – 4.00pm
Mens Overs	4.00 – 6.00pm

Please note that these times may change after the first couple of practices.

Just to remind you the names of the 2001 Committee members: Lee Young, Jared Hoon, Katrina Ng, Martin Lau, Kevin Hing and Lenny Loh. It will be time to get the Committee rolling again and we always welcome new Committee members, to help plan for year 2002. We want to make this year another successful year for the Centre members. How can we achieve this? Simple, we need your help and commitment, come and join the Committee and provide the team with your great ideas.

For those of you who are interested in helping out on the Basketball committee, please contact any of the committee members from last year for more details.

As we'll want to get a move on in terms of organising teams for the Silver Jubilee Tournament – the earlier you turn up to practice the better the teams will be.

## WCSCC MINI –BALL NEWS !!!

Lenny Loh 479-7509

The Miniball Committee would like to keep you updated with what is going on while we all have been away from the Centre. The 2002 season is around the corner and practices will start again in April, after the Easter 2002 tournament. We are in the process of planning for the season which includes the basketball camp, the various tournaments, coaches, etc.

## 2002 SEASON

The season will start on the Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, from 10:30am. The times for each grade will be:

10:30am to 12:00pm Tiniball (Ages 5 – 7 years)  
10:30am to 12:30pm Miniball (Ages 8 – 10 years)  
12:30pm to 2:00pm Intermediate (At Intermediate 11 & 12 years)

We are always looking for coaches. If you believe you can help in coaching, please ring me. There will always be someone leading the practices. Can you please bring a ball (size 5 for miniballers and size 6 for Intermediates) when you come to the practices? We would like to have more ball skills and there is not enough at the Centre. Please mark your child's ball clearly. Don't forget to bring a bottle of water and some snacks. If you need a ball, please let me know. The cost is about \$10 each and will be purchased from the Wellington Basketball Association.

Remember be there by 10:30am to be eligible for a spot prize.

## EASTER TOURNAMENT

As for the Easter 2002 tournament, which will be held in Wellington, between 29<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April, a Miniball tournament will be held on Sunday morning, 31<sup>st</sup> March. This tournament will be for Miniball (10 years and under) and Intermediate (11 and 12 years) grades. A final is planned for the Intermediate grade on the Monday morning. So, please come to the Easter practices for miniball between 10.30am and 12pm each Sunday.

## SPONSORSHIP

The next time you come up to the Centre, take some time to observe our basketball hoops! They now serve a dual purpose. We have installed a very fancy system that winds the hoops down to accommodate our growing Miniball group. So not only are they used for the BIG kids but we can use them for small kids too! What does this mean? It means we can play Miniball on both courts now, and no longer rely on the wheeling in and out each week of our portable hoop systems. BUT wait, there's more.....we now have six miniball hoops for the kids to practice shooting!

This improvement was very costly and could not have been done without the assistance of "The Horse and Hound", "Goana" and "The Wellington Community Trust" for which we are very thankful for their continued support.

A big THANK YOU to Viv Ching and Kevin Hing for getting the sponsorships.

## WESTPACTRUST STADIUM

Our busy year of fundraising at WestpacTrust has got off to a great start already with our involvement at the Rugby Sevens. Whilst our liquor stand was manned on Friday by the General Committee, we managed the Saturday shift, with the help from YYY. The team of volunteers were:

Katrina Ching, Stephen Ching, Dzung Trinh, Karen Young, Sandra Aubrey, Peter Aubrey, Warren Chin, Lenny Loh, Anita Loh, Henry Lee, Jim Ting, Val Houston, Carol Law, Lesley Wong, Mel Joe, Viv Ching. YYY assistance was provided from Murray Lum, Mike Chong, Charles Ford, Willie Szeto .....  
**thanks guys, great effort!**

Throughout the year we will have opportunities from time to time to raise funds for Miniball. These fundraisers enable us to keep our subscriptions low, replace equipment, and provide new uniforms for a growing number of keen and interested young children. We cannot do these fundraising activities

without parent help and assisting in just one fundraiser shares the load around everyone. We very much appreciate the assistance we have received from parents so far and hope you all continue to support us because we cannot do it without you.

Our next fundraiser is on March 15 when the Hurricanes play Sharks at 7.30pm. Here is your chance to come down to the Stadium if you have never been there before and an opportunity to help out if you haven't done so yet! If you are able to assist on our liquor stand please contact Viv Ching (494 4451 wk, 477 3100 ah).....asap, limited spaces available!

### **CENTRE 25<sup>TH</sup>. ANNIVERSARY**

The Centre will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the Queens Birthday tournament. If you have any photos or videos that will be of interest for this occasion, please bring them to the Miniball practices.

### **NEW ZEALAND BASKETBALL KORU 2002 TOURNAMENT**

Every year, the above tournament is held in Australia and NZ teams are invited to play with our Australian counter parts. The tournament is for U14, U16 and U18. Trials are held at various NZ centres.

I had the opportunity to travel to Australia with my son who was involved in this basketball tournament, in Albury (beautiful place, above 25 deg every day). The NZ teams were given the opportunity to stay at the Australian Institute of Sports, mixing with the Australian athletes during meal times. The NZ players were put on a non-fat diet at the Institute, no chips, no fried foods, right through the whole tour (2 weeks). (Guess what Michael ordered when the tour finished? CHIPS.) Teams involved came from the various states of Australia. Over 2000 players were involved. Victoria was very strong and ended up with most of the trophies. The U14 team that Michael belonged to came 5<sup>th</sup> out of 12 teams. This was the best result since 1992. NZ U14 won their grade in 1984. NZ is usually at the bottom of the table. The feedback from some of the Australian coaches was that the standard of the NZ players had improved a lot compared to last year. The Australian players were very fast and aggressive. Their shots were very accurate and I noticed that they were shooting and scoring at a percentage higher than the NZ players (although NZ put up more shots). The highlight of the tournament for NZ was during the closing ceremony, when the female players did their Powhiri welcoming dance and topless male players moved slowly into the crowd and did the Haka. Some of the retail businesses at Albury close early just to come and watch the Powhiri and the Haka.

This trip has been a big experience for me as well as the rest of my family. We met other parents. Michael made lots of friends. (By the way, trips like this also have a big impact on your credit cards, shopping !!!!!.) If you are interested in tournaments like this, contact Basketball New Zealand, join the Wellington Hoop Club run by Kenny MacFadden, come to the Wellington trials which are being held at the Winter Show Building every Saturday from 4:30pm., enrol in the U14 skills day. Your child will get the exposure and will pick up more basketball skills. Please give me a ring for more information.



### **INDOOR NETBALL**

The Summer Indoor Netball season came to a close for us about two weeks ago. Being bumped up to grade three was daunting! However, we made it through the season relatively unscathed with one draw and two losses,.....the rest wins of course! That was enough for us to contend for the finals. And contend we did!!!!!!!!!!!!

We came fourth by season end and come play off time, it required us to be at our best. We beat the third placed team to play the number two team and unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be. We lost in the semis.

So, The Real Deal bows out graciously and fighting. This was the last season for the Centre affiliated team. After a minor final win and two major wins in five seasons, no one can say we didn't have fun! Many thanks goes out to all the players and fill-ins that made our team.

Thanks must also go out to the helping hand lent by the WCSCC Sports Committee to help initially get the team off the ground. Thanks also to all the supporters,.....you know who you are.

And who knows,.....The Real Deal may resurrect itself to bring home another set of trophies.

*Martin Lau*

## On the Web with Justine

In celebration of the Chinese New Year, I thought that it would be fitting to find something on the net that was appropriate to all of our members read on and see what the Year of the horse has in store for you.

### 2002 Year of the Horse,



We recently celebrated the Chinese New Year on February 12 – this year it's the year of the Horse

Horse years are notorious historical turning points. Turbulent, untamed, and chaotic. Every 12 years the Horse comes around asking it's pinching question "Are you awake?"

The Yang force is at it's peak during Horse years, requiring action and movement. Of the 5 elements, the Horse is accompanied by Fire. This can bring to a boil the Water element of 2002, which can flare-up when least expected. Rigor and severity are also chronicled with unusual excesses befalling governing forces. The oratory Horse leads crowds with convincing speeches and egotistic agendas (WW1 (1918) WW2 (1942) The Great Depression (1930) Chinese Cultural Revolution (1966\*) Great San Francisco Earthquake (1906\*).

The Horse governs a year where money flows too freely through the fingers, and where savings accounts dwindle. Travel, voyages and changes occur in Horse years, and most of us will prefer to be anywhere except home! This year may be polarized by a manic-depressive air of enthusiasm, followed by self-doubt. Always a competitive and avid sportsman, the Horse can bring sprains (especially knees and ankles) or lower body injuries, keeping orthopedists busy in 2002.

Not since 1998's Tiger year have we seen this level of activity! Horse years demand independence and freedom - despite the costs. A "Decisive" year when many will strike out on their own. The Horse isn't known for staying close to home-base, preferring to be in the midst of social activities, debates and company. Impatient and talkative, Horses play offense in life, and 2002 will be an enterprising year when entrepreneurial efforts and small businesses can flourish.

Most signs will move both confidently and quickly in all endeavors. Romantic infatuation is the name of the game romantically this year, as the Horse falls very easily in and out of love. A marvelous year for the Goat, the Dog, and the Tiger, and for all who need more of the "Fire" element in their charts (the FIRE element being designated to the Horse.) Mid July through mid August is the culminating point in the year for Horse natives themselves, however the wet winter months of 2002 can be brought to a steamy boil by the Yang Fire of the year.

A narcissistic and self-centered year where even the most self-effacing personalities think of themselves first. Creative lending, money matters and intense competition, (especially in sports) takes the spotlight. Lively debates pepper Horse years as the steed is the supreme "orator" and speech-maker of the zodiac. Many could decide to change professions and especially established partners. CAUTION: The "other side" pastures of a Horse year, always seem greener than they really are!

Ceaseless motion, decisiveness and control flavor this active year. A spirited, fiery, heedless, time to move forward and to advance causes. Even the most avid procrastinators (Snake, Pig, Rabbit) will boldly move ahead with plans. The pulse of 2002 is fast and wildly variable. Non-conformists rule now. Love of social contact can be expected also even for the most reticent personalities. With all of this activity, insomnia could be the chief complaint to health care providers this year. Political muscle flexing, resignations, and fits if geological temper occur more often during Horse years.

My advice, is to think and reflect, "look before you leap" in 2002. Seek a healthy balance between deliberation and action, and avoid excessive physical or emotional escapades.

### **The Talkative Rat/Mouse**

Meticulous rats must baton down the hatches and hold onto their anti-depressants now! Horse years exasperate the Rat/mouse with all of the unconventional, whimsical disorder. Projects left unfinished, messiness and physical absences sorely test the Rat and bring out your critical side. Bitter rivalries in business and in love could occur when these two energies collide. The Fire of the Horse.

### **The Enduring Ox**

Potential difficult year, in conflict with the conservative Ox. Rebellion and rashness have no place in the Ox's life! And Horse years are full of both. Horse years are social and talkative, Oxen crave tranquility, solitude and quiet strength. A very favorable year for business, and your hard work is rewarded generously.

### **The Sublime Tiger**

A four star year for most Tigers as your Karmic side-kick, the Horse, leads the parade! Nomadic Horse years please the active Tiger but, your secrets are out and alternative plans are recommended. Start new projects this year - the bigger the better.

### **The Detached Rabbit/Cat**

Socially, the likeable and friendly Horse brings new acquaintances and partners into your life. Although you probably don't see the pattern, every 12 years during the reign of the Horse, you and a true soulmate cross paths. If given the choice, Rabbit/cats will always opt for the path of least resistance. You almost always keep your options open, and maintain an easy exit from your burrow. Shelve the commitment-phobia for now, and dive right in! You'll be glad you did.

### **The Outspoken Dragon**

Enthusiasm and unpredictability unite the Dragon with the Horse, and Dragons generally thrive during Horse years. Your unquenchable presence is not lost on others now, and it is time to confidently move forward with plans and life-long dreams.

### **The Philosophical Snake**

On again- off again romances plague the deeply feeling Snakes this year. The fickle Horse presents many romantic options - some of which burn out as quickly as they were formed when this double Fire combination occurs. Rapid changes in lifestyle could be in store for Snakes who would prefer to take their time.

### **The Expressive Horse**

Usually one's own animal year is a positive time, with the exception of Horses. 2002 could prove to be a roller-coaster year of ups and downs. 1966 Fire Horses are at particular risk for pandemonium breaking loose! Watch your temper and reign in that free spirit! Cultivate your exceptional powers of persuasion and promotion, and try to stick to a schedule. Your amazing ability to improvise and troubleshoot tricky problems become much sought after. Don't make decisions based on "feelings" only and try to keep your mood from fluctuating.

### **The Artistic Goat**

The best year you have had in a long time for dependent and artistic Goats. The Horse appreciates the Goat's talents and these two signs go together like peanut-butter and jelly! This year Goats complete their phoenix-like rise to former status and position. Financially lucky now, law suits settle in your favor and beneficiaries abound. Your dislike of routine is shared by the Horse and your capriciousness is indulged this year.

### **The Irrepressible Monkey**

Suspicious Monkeys throw a wet towel on the passion ruled Horse year. In 2002, Monkeys may be more suspicious and doubting than ever, believing their good luck - too good to be true. Some Magic is real and while whimsical, go ahead and accept matters at face value, no illusions in 2002. Monkeys could land their "dream-job" this year and should seize opportunities as they present themselves.

### **The Industrious Rooster**

Security conscious Roosters may bristle at some of the novelty this year. Be a good sport and show-off those colorful feathers! Fashion and appearance take the spotlight this year as do extraordinary verbal discussions.

### **The Watchful Dog**

Self-effacing Dogs lose their paranoia now and boldly move into uncharted waters. Many Dogs could change partners this year and establish connections of long duration. A year of abrupt changes for the Dog as the Horse year brings many changes. Lady Dogs must beware the smooth talk of a playboy amour and remember: If you are replaceable...you are objectified...Run for the hills! A new career could be offered to you bringing great satisfaction this year.

### **The Resigned Pig**

Pigs could be lucky in business yet, unlucky in love as the egotistical, infatuate Horse snatches partners away. A change in residence could be in store this year, as could some earth-shattering breaks of confidence. Prepare your case, don't cast your pearls before swine and know when to cut your losses.

*Sourced from: <http://www.chineseastrology.com>*

## **Matts joke for the month:**

3 men go into a motel.

The man behind the desk said the room is \$30, so each man paid \$10 and went to the room.

A while later the man behind the desk realized the room was only \$25, so he sent the bellboy to the 3 guys' room with \$5 on the way the bellboy couldn't figure out how to split \$5 evenly between 3 men, so he gave each man a \$1 and kept the other \$2 for himself.

This meant that the 3 men each paid \$9 for the room, which is a total of \$27, add the \$2 that the bellboy kept = \$29.

Where is the other dollar?

Answer in the next newsletter

### FREE GIFT WITH PURCHASE:

Please find enclosed your free gift with this edition of the newsletter– it's a free **cut-out-and-stick-to-the fridge- diary** of important dates that are coming up for WCSCC members:

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## WCSCC DATES TO REMEMBER:

**FRIDAY MARCH 29 – MONDAY APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
✍ Easter Tournament Being Held In Wellington

**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL**  
✍ WCSCC AGM 2.00pm start  
✍ Basketball practice starts today

**SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL**  
✍ Miniball practices start

**SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL**  
✍ Presentation of Lions Head to WCSCC by TECO  
2.00pm start

**FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY – MONDAY JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
✍ WCSCC Annual Queens Birthday weekend  
Tournament and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

