

Lets Have Some Fun!

...and do some yearly predictions for next year of the Water Snake (2013)
With Grand-Grand-Grandmaster Howard Choy, AFSC Honorary Life Member

AFSC Chinese New Year Gala Dinner, 04 February, 2013, Melbourne.



You too can be a fortune teller in 15 minutes,
let us show you how...



There are many fortune telling methods, as many as there are Feng Shui Grandmasters and secretly passed down formulas. But three stand out because they are the ones used in the books you can buy in any news stands in SE Asia like Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore before the Chinese New Year....



The most popular method is based on the animal nature of the year, each of the 12 Earthly Branches that made up the 60 Chinese Jiazi years is given a Zodiac animal and one can make a great fuss out of the characters of the animals...





For example, 2008 was a year of the Rat and a rat has a selfish nature, so we can predict that if in that year we behave in a selfish way, we will get into big trouble, which will always turn out to be true. We can also make a guess based on the good nature of a rat, like being industrious and hard working, so we can safely say that if we work hard in 2008, we can stay out of trouble, which will always turn out to be true as well. But beware of dealing with a Horse person, because a Rat is in Chong Sha (Rushing-at destructively) with a Horse and so on....



What about the year after? Year 2009 is a year of the Ox and an ox is also hardworking but in a less clever way. An Ox is also narrow minded, so we can predict or warn people that if we work hard but lost our vision in the process, it is not going to be a good year for us. This kind of non-specific “prediction” with a general public appeal will always seem “accurate”, and one just can’t go wrong this this type of advice for a new year .



Strengths

They often have a good temper and a skill at communicating but say little. They possess gracious morality and great wisdom. They are usually financially secure and do not have to worry about money. They have tremendous sympathy for others and would like to take actions to help their fellow human beings. They are determined to accomplish their goals hate to fail. Although they look calm on the surface, they are intense and passionate. They have a rich source of inspiration and understand themselves well. They are people of great perception. Women under the sign of the snake do well in housework but are irritable.



Weaknesses

They are likely to be jealous and suspicious. They should be cautious about what they discuss with others, as it might cause them to lose friendship and opportunities. They tend to overdo things. They prefer to rely on themselves and have doubts about other people's judgment. They are courteous with polite manners, but they can be headstrong. They are fickle and usually have problems in relationships or marriage problems.

http://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/social_customs/zodiac/snake.htm



Another popular method is based on interpreting the Five Elements of a Jiazi year. Each year has a Heavenly Stem and an Earthly Branch ending up with two Elements and we can use the Five Elements relationships to make a prediction base on their Wuxing Sheng-Ke 五行生剋 with each other.

戊子年 2008

For example, 2008 was a Wu Zi year, Wu is Yang Earth and Zi Rat is Water, so in 2008 we have an Earth on Water Hexagram. Earth on Water is not very stable, so we might have an earth quake or a financial melt down. Interesting, no one that I know in the Feng Shui circle predicted these two things could happen.

己丑年 2009

The year after (2009) has the Jiazi of Ji and Chou and Ji is Yin Earth and Chou Ox is also Earth, so in 2009 it is an Earth on Earth year which is a very stable sign, may be things will get back to normal, but because there are a lot of earth, the growth of new shoots will take a while to surface, so don't expect a quick recovery over night....

But this year will definitely be an improvement from last year!

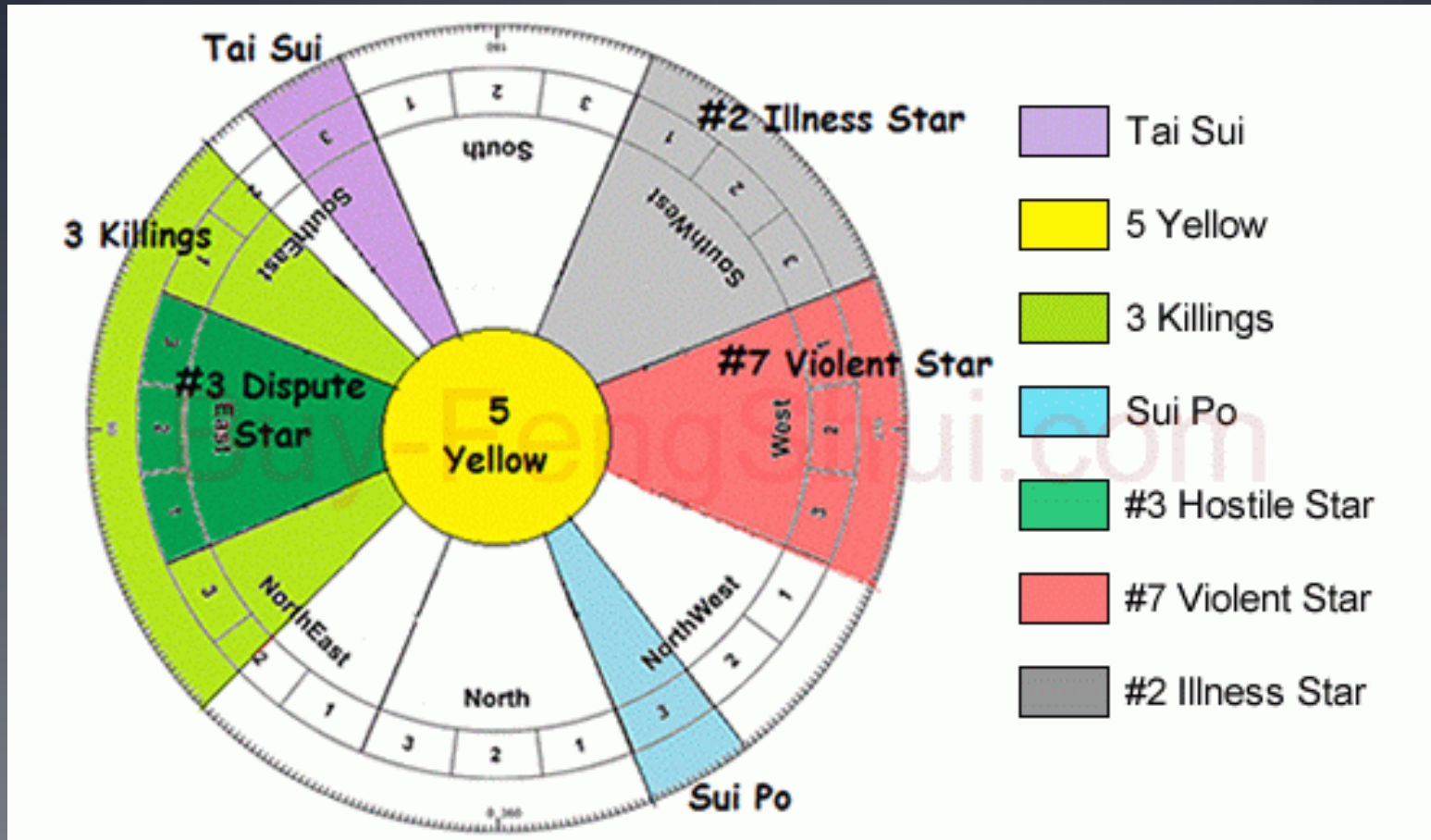
癸巳年 2013

Next year (2013) has the Jiazi of Gui and Si. Gui is Yin Water and Si Snake is Yin Fire, so in 2013 it is an Yin Water on Yin Fire year which does not look too good at first glance (Water will clash with Fire), may be things will get worse, but because there are both Yin, the end result may not be too severe, so don't be too worried....

According Master Vincent Koh of the Singapore Feng Shui Centre, Water and Fire clash will cause 1) Weather problems and draughts. 2) Epidemic outbreaks. 3) Conflicts in communication. 4) Problems with migrations and travel.

Now every year we tend to have these problems somewhere in the world, so one cannot go wrong with these general predictions and you can add a few more of your own, then put in the more hopeful signs to make the prediction complete.

The third popular method is based on the Purple-White Flying Stars. This method is used a lot because one can sell a lot of Cures” with the affected areas in a home, below is a picture from Feng Shui Forecast and Afflictions for 2013 from “Buy Feng Shui . Com”





Pi Yao to appease Tai Sui



Metal Pagoda to appease the 5 Yellow



3 Celestial Guardians for San Sha



Pi Yao to appease the Sui Po



Blue elephant for the 7 Po Jun Star



Metal Buddha script for 2 Sickness Star

Some of the stuff they try to sell you each year



As a last resort, we can always cast the Yijing with coins..

Three coins are taken up and throw down together and each throw give a Yao line. The side with the Chinese character is consider Yang and has a value of 3, a yang number. The side with the Manchurian characters is consider Yin and has a value of 2, a yin number. By adding up the values , we will get 3 Yang which is 9 and 3 Yin which is 6. Also 2 yang with 1 Yin which is 8 and 2 Yin with 1 Yang which is 7. Both 7 and 8 are considered changing Yao lines and we can do prediction with the Hexagram generated by tossing the coins.

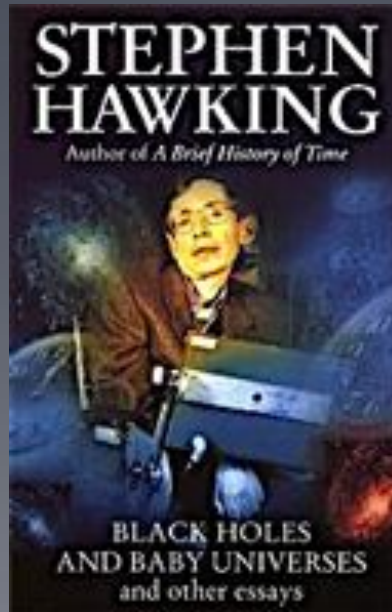


As we can see there are many ways we can do yearly predictions and the outcomes are usually very general and non-specific to appease our need to know the future.

Is this need to know the future and the belief that we can tell the future come from the feeling that our life is pre-determined and there is no such a thing as free-will?

Is there a better way to approach yearly prediction?

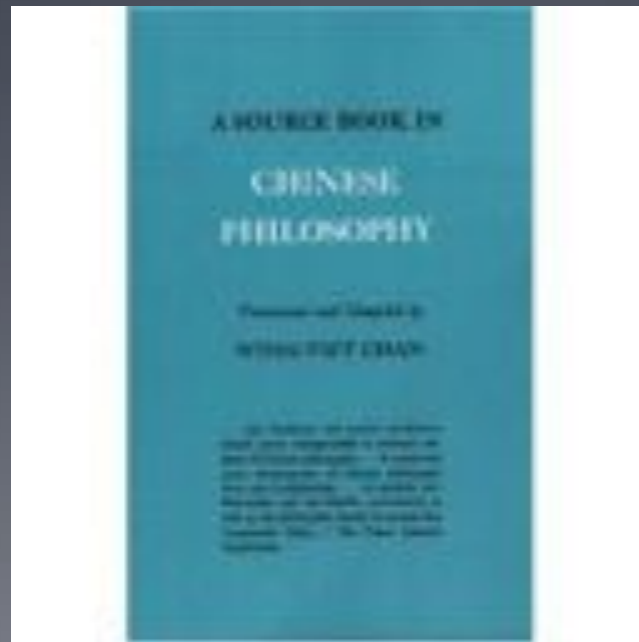
In his book, “ Black Holes and Baby Universes”, Dr. Stephen Hawking, the famous British theoretical physicist, asked the question in one of the lectures he gave at the University of Cambridge in 1990, “Is everything determined?” The answer at the end of the lecture was, “Yes, it is. But it may as well not be, because we can never know what is determined.”



His point of view is that we may be able to predict the behaviour of physical objects, large or small, in space with the fundamental laws of physics, but we cannot predict human behaviour, and the uncertainty principle of quantum mechanics tells us that what we try to predict will affect the future of the prediction as well.

So we may as well adopt the theory that humans are free agents who can choose what want to do, this approach has definite survival advantages – we have free will and we are responsible to what we do and if we do the wrong things, then eventually, natural selection will wipe us out.

This is a modern scientist point of view on destiny and free will. The Chinese, in particular the Confucian scholars, also have a similar view and this is sum up in Wing-Tsit Chan's "A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy"



“In ancient China there were five theories about destiny or the Mandate of Heaven. The first was fatalism: the Mandate of Heaven is fixed and unchangeable. The second was moral determinism: Heaven always encourage virtue and punishes evil; therefore man can determine his reward and punishment through moral deeds. The third was anti-fatalism, advocated by the Moist School. The fourth was naturalistic fatalism, which means that destiny is not control by Heaven in the sense of an anthropomorphic God but by Nature and works automatically. Lastly, there was the Confucian theory of “waiting for destiny”. According to this doctrine, man should exert his utmost in moral endeavor and leave whatever is beyond our control to fate. It frankly admits that there are things beyond our control but that is no reason why one should relax in his moral endeavor. The tendency was definitely one of moralism and humanism. The Confucian theory represents the conviction of enlighten Chinese in general”.

一命
二運
三風水
四積陰德
五讀書

(1) Destiny

(2) Cycle

(3) Feng Shui

(4) Accumulation of hidden virtuous deeds

(5) Study books

In light of these two points of view (the scientist and the Confucian), Feng Shui straddles the boundary between destiny and free-will as shown in the classic saying above. We should use Feng Shui (or yearly prediction in this context) as a tool to help us to do our utmost and only after we have tried our best, will our destiny be a true fate and not to fall into the abyss of fatalism and determinism of all kinds.



Now let us have some fun and predict who is going to win the Australian Federal Election in September 14, 2013.

Now I know who has a better chance, because the Sportsbet.com.au gives the betting odds at this stage as being :

Coalition.....	1.25
Labor Party.....	3.75

All I have to do now is to find a method that will give me the desire answer!

FLYING STAR FENG SHUI 2013

for the year of the Water Snake

	SE	SOUTH	SW	
	4	9	2	
EAST	3	5	7	WEST
	8	1	6	
	NE	NORTH	NW	

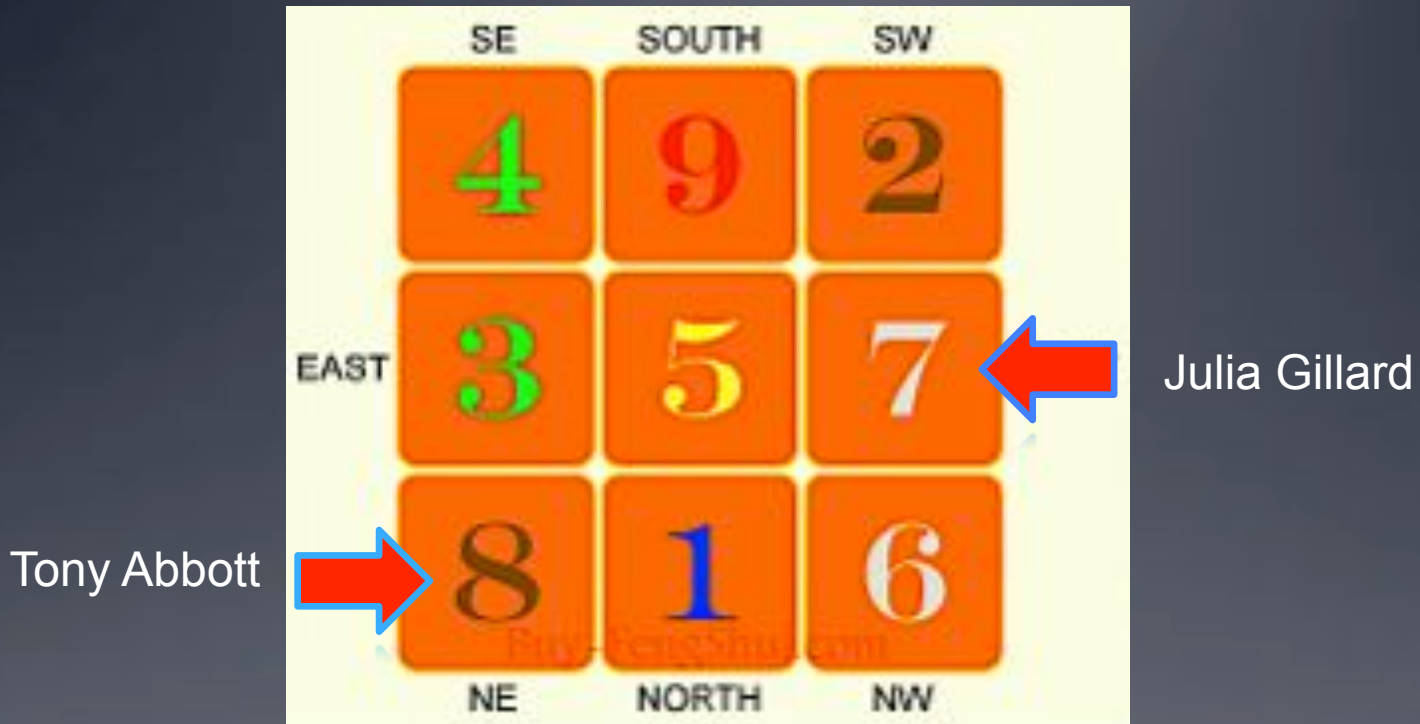
Buy FengShui.com

Lets do it with the yearly flying star method and use the number in the central palace representing the Taiji for Australia and where both leaders came from when they first migrated to Australia represented by their directional numbers.

Tony Abbott, born London 1957, migrated to Sydney 1960
(Direction NE using Canberra as the Taiji for Australia)

Julia Gillard, born Berry Wales 1961, migrated to Adelaide 1966
(Direction West using Canberra as the Taiji for Australia)





According to these numbers, the Coalition will win. But I will behave more like a weather forecaster than a hedge fund manager and keep an eye on the progress as the time gets nearer and more data come into the picture. If the situation changes and the Labor Party is likely to win, then I will chose another method of prediction to go with the flow...

Yearly predictions are not some psychic readings that some has more ability (or accuracy) than others. They are like the Yijing readings in the sense that we use a symbolic or numerical model as a metaphor to help us to think and to feel and to speak and most important to make sense of our future. They don't actually predict what the future will be but they do help us to reduce some of the anxieties we have about the unknown and they help us to do some forward planning for the tasks we have in the new year. That is the real benefit of a yearly prediction.



*“It is not in the stars to hold our destiny
but in ourselves.”*

— William Shakespeare



KUNG HEI FAT CHOY!

Thank you for listening.



Howard Choy (Cai Hong 蔡洪) B.Arch (UNSW) is a practicing Australian Feng Shui Architect now base in Berlin. He is a China trained Feng Shui expert/teacher having more than 30 years of experience of practicing and teaching Feng Shui. He was born in China and migrated to Australia at an early age. In the late 70s he studied Feng Shui under the personal guidance of Master Ren Zhi-Lin in Hong Kong. Since 1992 Howard has been working with tertiary institutions in China, Hong Kong and Germany on Feng Shui research. He is a willing teacher to shares his knowledge and experience with his students. Howard is the Principal of the European College of Feng Shui (ECOFS) and a director of ECOFS Consulting and ar-qi-tektur, Feng Shui architects and Planners based in Berlin. His Australian clients include Murdoch Magazines, Speedo Australia, The Star Hotel and Casino, Sydney Darling Harbor Authority and the Council of the City of Sydney.

Master-Course on Feng Shui

with Howard Choy, Feng Shui Architect and Consultant
Sydney and Berlin

Melbourne and Sydney: February, 2014



"Howard is a rare gem we are lucky to have. I appreciate and admire his wisdom, integrity and passion. The presentation was interesting, well paced and enjoyable." – Tyler

Each year around the Chinese New Year's time, Howard returns to Australia to see his family and to run a workshop in Melbourne and Sydney. The subject is often depend on students' interest and each year it will be different, please contact his organizers listed here for further details.



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