

CHINESE NEW YEAR, celebrated 26 January 2009....

The **Year of the Ox** has special significance for people born in 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997 & 2009.

The Ox is born under the signs of equilibrium & tenacity. He is a hard & conscientious worker & sets about everything he does in a resolute, methodical & determined manner. He has considerable leadership qualities & is often admired for his tough & uncompromising nature. He knows what he wants to achieve in life &, as far as possible, will not be deflected from his ultimate objective.

The Ox tends to have a calm & tranquil nature, but if something angers him or he feels that someone has let him down, he can have a fearsome temper. He can also be stubborn & obstinate & this can lead him into conflict with others.

Ox people are often deep thinkers & rather studious. They are not particularly renowned for their sense of humour & do not take kindly to new gimmicks or anything too innovative.

Once settled in a job or house, the Ox will quite happily remain there for many years. He does not like change & he is also not particularly keen on travel. He does, however, enjoy gardening & other outdoor pursuits & he will often spend much of his spare time out of doors.

Due to his dedicated & dependable nature, he will usually do well in his chosen career, providing he is given enough freedom to act on his own initiative.

The Ox is particularly well-suited to those born under the signs of the Rat, Rabbit, Snake & Rooster.

Famous Ox People: Louis Armstrong, Charlie Chaplin, Napoleon Bonaparte, Jim Carrey, Kate Moss, Peter Sellers, Princess Diana & Johann Sebastian Bach.





BUSH CRISIS LINE 1800 805 391 for 24-hour confidential, professional counselling

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Snippets...Snippets...

RDWA SUPPORT FOR SPOUSES

Spouse Employment Assistance Grant provides spouses/partners of rural docs with the opportunity to train/study to enhance their employment opportunities within their communities. Up to \$3000 per spouse is available per financial year. Go to the website www.ruraldoc.com.au to access the application form. For more information, contact Geri Malone on E Geri.Malone@ruraldoc.com.au or P 8234 8277.



Bilbies NOT bunnies

EASTER traditions in Australia...

Hot cross buns are sweet, spiced buns made with dried fruit & leavened with yeast. A cross, the symbol of Christ, is placed on top of the buns, either with pastry or a simple mixture of flour & water. The buns are traditionally eaten on Good Friday, however in Australia they are available in bakeries & stores soon after Christmas!

Eggs, symbolising new life, have long been associated with the Easter festival. Chocolate Easter eggs, are a favourite part of Easter in Australia. Some families & community groups organise Easter egg hunts (eg the Bundaleer Easter Egg Hunt) for children in parks & recreational areas. Easter eggs are traditionally eaten on Easter Sunday, however stores start stocking Easter treats well before the Easter holiday period.

Easter Bunny: Early on Easter Sunday morning, the Easter Bunny 'delivers' chocolate Easter eggs to children in Australia, as it does in many parts of the world. The rabbit & the hare have long been associated with fertility, & have therefore been associated with spring & spring festivals. The rabbit as a symbol of Easter seems to have originated in Germany where it was first recorded in writings in the 16th century. The first edible Easter bunnies, made from sugared pastry, were made in Germany in the 19th century.

Easter Bilby: Rabbits are an introduced species in Australia & are unpopular because of the damage they do to the land. In 1991 a campaign was started by the Anti-Rabbit Research Foundation to replace the Easter Bunny with the Easter Bilby (an endangered species). Haigh's Chocolates in Adelaide were the first company to produce chocolate bilbies for Easter.

The 'four-day long weekend': In addition to its religious significance, Easter in Australia is enjoyed as a four-day holiday weekend starting on Good Friday & ending on Easter Monday. This extra-long weekend is an opportunity for Australians to take a mini-holiday, or get together with family & friends. Easter often coincides with school holidays, so many people with school aged children incorporate Easter into a longer family holiday. Easter is the busiest time for domestic air travel in Australia, & a very popular time for gatherings such as weddings & christenings.

Easter greetings to all! And may everybody enjoy a safe & happy school holidays!