

Wednesday 6 February 2013.

## **WELCOME IN THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE**

The City of Ryde's Lunar New Year celebrations offer a feast of fun for everyone ... so get set to welcome in the Year of the Snake.

Eastwood is the heartland of our local Chinese and Korean community and from 10 - 24 February Eastwood Plaza will come alive with the sights, sounds and tastes of everything Asian ... from aromatic cooking and noisy fireworks, to street decorations and fearsome lions, from traditional music and song to jazz and Gangnam Style.

Mayor Cllr Ivan Petch said the festival was an increasingly popular highlight on the local cultural calendar.

"Our Lunar New Year Festival started as a small community event attended by a few hundred people, and has since grown to become one of our biggest celebrations, with around 10,000 people enjoying the spectacle last year," the Mayor said.

"This Festival is a celebration of our City's diversity, uniting people from all cultures to share the beginning of a New Year, start afresh and leave behind regrets from the previous year.

"Kung hei fat choy!"

### *2013 Prediction for Snake*

*Snake can expect good fortune in relationships and look forward to a time when they personally and professionally shine. It will be a year when Snake can easily overcome recent setbacks or obstacles. Financial fortune comes in the second half of the year.*

### **City of Ryde Lunar New Year Festival Program**

#### **Sunday 10 Feb Eastwood Plaza**

- 10.30am Free food tasting stalls, including Singapore fried rice noodles, Salmon fried rice, Pork dumpling and Chinese New year Cake
- 11.00am Official opening, including Lion Dance
- 11.20am Cooking Competition (adult)
- 12.30pm Cooking competition (children)

#### **Saturday 23 February Eastwood Plaza**

11.00am – 5.00pm Music and dance performances, pole-jumping lions, food stalls, martial arts, tai chi, fireworks and Eastwood's longest dragon parade.