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Growing Glowing Pigs 猪年“猪”事皆顺 (Happy as a pig...)

Welcome to the enthusiastic Pig Year. It starts on 5 February 2019 and will be overtaken by the Rat on 25 January 2020. The pig is the last animal in the Chinese zodiac reflecting their slow speed and propensity to eat and sleep too much.



一龙一猪(yi long yi zhu), like dragons and pigs (chalk and cheese) - Twelve years ago (the last Pig Year), scientists in China and Taiwan were vying for the weirdest genetically modified pig: a green fluorescent version to help in stem cell research, and a 'glow in the dark' option to help in studying human diseases. This year, on a similar theme, it is thin pigs who don't feel the cold on the 'menu' so to speak. Genetically modified pigs with 24 per cent less fat have been created by scientists in China and the UK. This will apparently help pigs combat the cold

and save on heating and feed costs for farmers. China is home to half the world's pigs and is the largest consumer of pork.

Piggybank - in the Zhou Dynasty, wealth was measured by the number of pigs in the family. While Pig Years are generally good in financial markets with index highs being reached in the past, eg 2007, it was also the last Pig Year (start of 2008) when the GFC hit. For this Pig Year pundits are predicting a slowdown, however the Pig is a lucky animal, the most generous and astute in investment, and it ought to be a good year to invest. Be wise and keep something in the piggybank and take care not to buy a pig in a poke!

Homely pig (豕 shi ; 家 jia) - The ancient Chinese character for 'pig' (shi) contains part of the character for 'home' (jia), reflecting the fact that pigs are homebodies.

The sty is the centre of action as pigs like to hang out with the family and pig years are good for piglets! A home in the country in clover and mud is the dream. A clean home is not a priority, but a well-stocked cellar is. Sweating like a pig is not desirable but rather than avoid exercise, making health and fitness a priority for this year would be a good resolution.

Piggy in the Middle - Pigs are peacemakers. Loyalty, justice, and peace are all strong values. Fundraising for good causes is a highlight, although some take advantage with snouts in the trough; pigs prefer to stay out of the limelight.

In the spirit of helping others, pigs have provided heart valves, insulin, and corneas for humans, and now a biotech company eGenesis (whose chief scientist is Chinese) is working on genetic modification of pig organs to solve the shortage of human organs. Around 1600

Australians are on the transplant list and sadly one person dies every day waiting. Scientists anticipate this new technology will deliver hundreds of organs a day.

Pig Out - Living high on the hog, the pig revels in luxurious pursuits like mud baths or having the latest gadgets. Intelligent and always searching for wisdom, the bad press about pigs being lazy and wallowing is not justified. A big sense of humour, sincere and trusting nature, they are also reliable and patient, they don't get boared and, not to mention, are hardworking – pigs grunt (rock)!

Bringing Home the Bacon - Pig Careers - Changing careers is not recommended in a Pig Year. Pigs obviously do well in caring and philanthropic areas. They are also creative and thrive on team work. Doctors, nurses, aid workers, teachers, coaches; also, of course, catering and hotel management (preferably 5-star), and interior design to pack the sty with latest comforts are well chosen porcine occupations.

This Little Piggy – Famous Porkers

CHINESE INTEREST

- 郑和 Zheng He, great mariner, explorer and diplomat in Ming Dynasty. He was born in Yunnan, the home province of our MD, Charles Qin
- 蒋介石 Chiang Kai-shek, politician, military leader and influential member of the KMT
- 林丹、刘翔、王皓 Lin Dan, Liu Xiang and Wang Hao, three great Chinese athletes in badminton, hurdling and table tennis respectively
- 李光耀 Lee Kuan Yew, first Prime Minister of Singapore
- 马化腾 Ma Huateng, CEO and Chairman of tech giant Tencent Holdings (WeChat)
- 杨绛 Yang Jiang, playwright, author, and translator. She was the first Chinese person to produce a complete Chinese translation of Miguel de Cervante's novel Don Quixote

ALSO

- Ernest Hemingway, Henry Ford, Sir Elton John, Hillary Clinton, Stephen King, Wolfgang Mozart, Ronald Reagan, Camilla Duchess of Cornwall, the Dalai Lama, Henry VIII, Elon Musk, Mike Pence, Justin Trudeau, Bryan Adams, Luciano Pavarotti, Chrissie Amphlett, Missy Higgins

MOVIE 'BABES'

- Arnold Schwarzenegger, Steven Spielberg, Jackie Weaver, Hugh Laurie, Ewan McGregor, Emma Thompson, Martin Freeman, Bryan Brown, Humphrey Bogart, Richard Dreyfus, Chris Hemsworth, Woody Allen, Alfred Hitchcock, Julie Andrews

HIGH ON THE HOG AUSSIES

- Bob Carr, Josh Frydenberg, Jacquie Lambie, Julie Collins, John Gorton, Henry Parkes (father of Federation), Governors-General Peter Cosgrove, Sir Ninian Stephen
- Sir Ian Clunies-Ross (CSIRO), Prof Graeme Clark (Cochlear), Harry Seidler (architect), John Macarthur (wool pioneer), Peter Lalor (Eureka Stockade fame)

SPORT (BE CAREFUL OF THOSE HAMSTRINGS)

- Cricketers (and let's hope the pig year is better!) Shaun Marsh, Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden
- Nick Kyrgios, Pete Sampras, John McEnroe, Madison Keys, Fernando Verdasco, Daniela Hantuchova, Jelena Dokic, Todd Woodbridge, Kim Clijsters
- Anna Meares, Jacques Villeneuve, Lance Armstrong

Piggy Back in History

2007-2008

- Harry Potter series came to an end with the final book, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
- Kevin Rudd became the 26th Prime Minister of Australia. He ratified the Kyoto Protocol on climate change on his first day as Prime Minister
- China's first property law passed

1995-1996

- American spacecraft Galileo arrived at Jupiter
- Ebay started
- China's population reached 1.2 billion

1983- 1984

- US president Ronald Reagan proposed Strategic Defence Initiative, known as "Star Wars"; first Space Shuttle launched
- Bob Hawke became Australian Prime Minister
- Deng Xiaoping proposed the "One country, two systems" principle for the first time
- Microsoft Word launched Word 1.0
- Swatch introduced their first watches
- First mobile phones released

1971-1972

- Apollo 14 landed on the moon and Soviet Union launched first space station
- NASDAQ debut
- China admitted to the United Nations
- Start of the digital age - Intel released world's first microprocessor



1959-1960

- Dalai Lama fled Tibet
- NASA's first astronauts chosen
- Barbie Doll launched

1947-1948

- Start of Cold War
 - Polaroid (instant) camera demonstrated
- For more of a piggy back visit our [blog](#)*

What will happen in 2019 Year of the Pig

- A federal election in Australia – pork barrelling anyone? (NB two Labor governments came to power in Pig Years!)
- UK's membership in the EU seems likely to end
- General elections in India, Philippines and Indonesia
- Emperor Akihito of Japan will abdicate from the throne
- The 2019 Cricket World Cup in England and Wales; the Ashes in England
- Climbing Uluru will be permanently banned

Twists in the Tails

- During the 7.9-magnitude quake that struck Sichuan, China in 2008, a pig survived on charcoal and rainwater for 36 days while trapped under debris. This pig, later called “猪坚强” (zhu jian qiang, meaning strong pig), has become a national icon in China.
- For more 'tails' visit our [blog](#)*

Pig idioms

- 母猪也能上树 Sows can also climb trees - Pigs might Fly, which describes an impossibility.
- 没吃过猪肉, 也见过猪跑 I have never eaten pork, and I have seen pigs run - No matter how little knowledge you have, you will have some common sense.
- 扮猪吃老虎 Pretend to be stupid to kill more powerful opponents - pretending to be weak.
- 鸡飞上树猪拱圈 The chicken flies to the tree and the pig runs out of the pigpen - predict the coming earthquake.

In the spirit of the Pig, we hope you indulge in some Chinese New Year festivities. While Chin works on, China goes on holidays for a week. We'll also be channelling the pig in helping you with your Chinese plans during the year.

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Wishing you Luck and Happiness in the Year of the Pig