

CONTACT



NEWSLETTER • WINTER EDITION

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December 2013 - February 2014

Free Copy

Happy Holidays: Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

We are at the time of year where we are celebrating many holidays. Christmas is coming right around the corner followed closely by our ushering in the New Year that is 2014.

In 2014, Chinese New Year falls on 31 January and is a major celebration in Singapore, and not just by the Chinese. We celebrate the



major ethnic festivals and celebrations.

friendships and camaraderie.

The VSC EXCO wants to wish our honorary advisors, all members, friends and supporters a **Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!** And may each of us Have a Great Year Ahead in 2014. ♦

One of the most common ways for Singaporeans to celebrate important festivals and celebrations is through food. And it is appropriate that we celebrate Chinese New Year in Vancouver with the VSC with food as well; we



occasion in Vancouver as well. In fact, since Singapore is multicultural city, people there have learnt how to celebrate all the

have the CNY Dinner on 31 Jan 2014. Of course it is not about food, but more about fostering

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Notice of Upcoming AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver Singapore Club will be held sometime in March 2014 or early April 2014.

To ensure that all members will be notified in a timely manner when a firm date, place and time is set, please email secretary@singaporeclub.ca if your home address or email address is changed, or if you have not been receiving any correspondence or news of club activities recently.

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President's Message... Violet Chan

The air is getting cooler and 2013 is drawing to a close. However, we have to wait a little longer to usher in the Lunar Year of the Horse. We fully expect our Chinese New Year function to be hailed by attendees as "the greatest ever". Singapore Airlines is sponsoring 2 return airline tickets to Singapore without black-out dates. Every paid attendee will have a chance to win this fabulous prize. In addition, a VSC Logo coffee mug will be given

to every attendee as a gesture of saying "Thank You" for your participation and support.

The EXCO members have been working overtime to make the celebration a success. Our events are always filled with fellowship, fun and enrichment. You rub shoulders and often share a meal together with friends (old and new) of other ethnic groups. In a world of service, those who serve the community so magnificently will come

together for an unforgettable evening that will propel our great Club forward with energy and vision. We look forward to welcoming all of you on Friday, 31st January 2014 at Continental Seafood Restaurant.

In conclusion, I wish to welcome all members and non members to come forward to contribute your service to the community. Together we can fulfil our goal to reach a new level of success for our Club! ♦



Another Quick Word... Editor, Kah Eng Koh

We are into our 3rd edition of the newsletter. I hope that we have been able to serve the club with interesting articles and news about Singapore or about living in Vancouver as migrants.

I want to thank all members who have

generously contributed their articles and pictures. Their inputs are really valuable and add to the success of our newsletter and our Club. I hope that we will continue to receive interesting materials from members. Hope to hear from you soon! ♦

Club Objectives:

1. *To promote opportunities for Members to meet socially and to organize cultural and recreational activities.*
2. *To serve as an informal source of information and advise on Doing Business, Working and Living in Vancouver to Members and newly-arrived Singaporeans.*
3. *To organize informal meetings and exchange of views with eminent Singaporeans visiting Vancouver on subjects of general interest.*
4. *To carry out such other activities which promote the general welfare and interests of the Members and the Club as determined by the Executive Committee in a manner which is consistent with the objectives stated above.*

6417 Fraser Street, P.O. Box #60008 Fraser PO , Vancouver, BC V5W 4B5 , Canada

E-mail: violetct99@gmail.com • Phone: 604-616-8258

www.singaporeclub.ca

www.facebook.com/vancouveringsingaporeclub

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Membership Fees

General Member	(for Individual & Family)	\$25.00 per year
Life Member	(for Individual & Family)	\$250.00 one time payment
Corporate Member	(for Companies & All Legal Entities)	\$180.00 per year
Student Member	(for students in full time studies)	\$10.00 per year

Vancouver-Singapore Club

Membership Application Form

Name: Spouse:

Country of Birth: (Applicant)..... Spouse:.....

Address:.....

City:..... Province:..... Postal Code:.....

No. of Children: Email:.....

Tel: Fax: Cell:

Date:..... 20 Signature:.....

Proposed By:..... Seconded by:.....

Date Approved:..... Membership No: Expiry Date:

Advertise with the Vancouver Singapore Club

Rates for Quarterly Newsletter

For Advertisements in Color

Full Page (Back Cover)..... \$300
Full Page (Inside Cover)..... \$250
Full Page (Inside)..... \$200

For Advertisements in Black & White

Full Page (Inside Cover)..... \$200
Full Page (Inside)..... \$150
Half Page (Inside)..... \$100
Quarter Page (Inside) \$50
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- 1) Members advertising their own companies - 10%
- 2) Advertisements placed in 2 consecutive issues - 10%

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For those who participate in giving 10 - 20% rebate benefit to Members.

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Robert Chia 604-931-3020

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(125 x 125 pixels)\$100

Contact:

Violet Chan..... 604-616-8258
Or

Email: President@singaporeclub.ca

Website: www.singaporeclub.ca



CONSUL-GENERAL FOR SINGAPORE IN VANCOUVER

Mr. Terrance K. Salman
Suite 1700, 1095 West
Pender Street,
Vancouver, BC V6E 2M6

T: 604-622-5281
F: 604-685-2471
E: van@sgmfa.gov.sg

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Chinese New Year 2014



**"THE CHINESE
USUALLY SWEEP
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OUT OF THE HOUSE"**

Chinese New Year will fall on 31 January in 2014 ushering in the Year of the Wood Horse.

Symbols

Red is the predominant colour used for the Chinese New Year celebrations. The colour red is believed by the Chinese to symbolize joy, virtue, truth and sincerity. The Chinese like to wear new clothing from head to toe symbolizing a new beginning for the new year. Another tradition of Lunar New Year is the use of firecrackers, which have now been banned in Singapore. These firecrackers explode with loud crackling noises when ignited - so deafening that they are thought by the Chinese to keep evil spirits away. Families display red couplets with phrases to signify abundance, happiness and longevity are displayed at the main door.

Red lanterns are hanged at storefronts and homes to symbolize auspiciousness, and pots of kumquats and flowers are placed around the home to brighten up the house, as a sign of luck and joy.

Food

During visitation, it is a common custom to present the owner of the house a pair of mandarin oranges and for the owner to return the gesture by giving the visitor another two mandarin oranges. Mandarin oranges are considered traditional symbols of abundance and good fortune so when we exchange the pairs of fruit, it means we wish each other an auspicious and prosperous New Year.

Special New Year foods are usually offered to visitors. Common and traditional ones include bak kwa (thinly sliced fragrant barbecued pork), crispy nonya prawn rolls (dried prawns mix rolled in thin wraps and deep fried), love letters (thin sweet crisp egg-rolls), pineapple tarts (pineapple jam inside or on bite-sized pastry), kueh baulu (small sponge cakes that are slightly crisp on the outside and spongy soft on the inside), kueh bangkit (white powdery coconut cookies), ground-nuts to symbolize good health and longevity, candy to symbolize a sweet year ahead and



chocolates wrapped to look like gold coins to symbolize wealth and prosperity.

New Year Superstitions



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When it comes to superstitions, the Chinese take these beliefs seriously. Here are a few of the superstitions revolving around Lunar New Year:

- Watch what you say - One should refrain from using 'unlucky' words like 'die' or "poor".
- No cutting - Nothing should be cut to avoid cutting one's life short. So no cutting hair or noodles.
- No sweeping - The Chinese usually sweep their homes before the Lunar



Chinese New Year 2014, cont'd...

New Year. They believe that sweeping on New Year's Day itself is as good as sweeping luck out of the house.

- Open Door - The main door of your house (even windows) should be wide open from New Year's eve to the next morning to usher in good luck.
- Be careful - Nothing should be broken during the New Year so as to avoid arguments or breaking of relations.

Rituals

Days before Lunar New Year arrives, families do a thorough spring cleaning of their homes to sweep away bad luck and to make way for a clean new start to a new year. Families gather on New Year's

Eve for the family reunion dinner where family members are able to come together to reaffirm their love and build stronger relationships and ties. House visitations are also common practices during the Chinese New Year. And of course there is the red packet, or Hong Bao, containing money in them. Married couples usually give these out to their own children and to the children of relatives and friends, as a sign on prosperity and good luck.

The VSC EXCO wishes one and all a Happy & Prosperous Chinese New Year.



VSC Pin & Coffee Mug

by President Violet Chan

In 2012, the EXCO members, in an effort to enhance the identity and image of the Club, embarked on a few ideas. A commemorative pin was made for the Club with the new Logo. The finished product is now proudly worn by members, guests and well wishers. Funding for that initial project was sponsored by a Notary Public, George Tan, a Singaporean who is a PR in Canada and President of

VSC, Violet Chan.

In 2013, our 2nd project is the production of our own VSC logo coffee mug. Our heartfelt thanks to the generosity of our Consul General of the Republic of Singapore, Mr. Terrance K. Salman, and to our VP Michael Wong and his wife, Annie for the work undertaken by them to complete the documentation & shipment.

We are indeed very proud that we have sourced and produced our very own microwave and

First riot in 40 years rocks Singapore

Sunday, 8 Dec 2013

By: [Katie Holliday](#) CNBC.com

Twenty seven people have been arrested following the worst case of civil unrest that Singapore has seen in over four decades, local press reported.

A mob of approximately 400 foreign workers were involved in the riot late on Sunday evening, sparked by a fatal accident involving a 33-

year old Indian national who was run over by a private bus in Little India, a Singaporean district that is home to large amounts of Indian and Bangladeshi foreign workers. Ten police officers and four civil defence officers were injured.

For details, go to <http://www.cnbc.com/id/101256107/> ◆



Photo: Channel News Asia

dishwasher safe "limited edition" coffee mug. Every attendee to our Chinese New Year Event which falls on 31st January 2014 will be entitled to one each. When you are sipping your favourite hot drink, the "cloud" will rise above while you admire the maple leaf and Merlion icons on the front. Year of incorporation and the website url are printed on the back. For personal use or as a great gift to prospective members and friends, is a great idea!! ◆



VSC Commemorative Pin



VSC Coffee Mug
(picture by member Derrick Gan)

CONTACT

Kawan Kawan Nite 2013



L-R: Gracie, Violet, Michael & Annie
by member H.Soh

Thanks to Simon Chow
and Swee Teh (Life Members)
who arranged Park Place Com-



Thompson Henry serenading the ladies
in the audience.

munity Hall in Vancouver for all
VSC members and guests to hold

a "Friendship Night" social function on September 28, 2013. Over 70 members and guests attended.

The delicious food prepared by Kim includes Indian rojak, Hainanese chicken rice, noodles, nyonya kueh and other special desserts. We enjoyed the food while Archie & Baby entertained us on the keyboard. As the evening progressed some mem-



Violet with one of the lucky winners!

bers and guests got into the mood like Thompson Henry & John Pak who have graciously came forward to sing a few songs to keep us entertained. There was ample food and the attendees helped themselves to a



L-R: Selvan, Rey, Robert & Michael Mok

second round with the balance sold to help subsidise the event.

There was a minor incident with unauthorised parking and Bruno Philip offered to help the guests with a ride. Now that exemplifies the "Friendship Spirit" for the night! ♦



L-R: Kah Eng, Prof Ho Peng Kee, Violet
& Michael Leong

Asian Breeze by VMHH at the Michael J Fox Theatre, Burnaby



Alice Crestejo was VSC's singing ambassador to Asian Breeze, showcasing multiculturalism, on October 25th, 2013.

December 2013 - February 2014

JOIN THE VSC YOUTH GROUP

Attract youths to form the Youth Group and it will be supervised by the VSC Board.

What are the Objectives?

- To promote leadership & public relationship skills.
- To keep yourself updated and be in contact with the business world.
- To learn from the experienced and long term committee members of their skill in organizing events like, charitable functions, social nights or any other events from time to time.
- To promote among the youths to be active in general and know their roots.
- To create mutual understanding between young people from different countries and from different cultures through such events.
- To create more opportunities for youths to participate in the VSC organization.
- To promote and increase self-esteem, confidence and beliefs by delivering a range of services for the organization programs.
- To increase positive decision making attitude and also abilities to form constructive relationships.
- To improve communication and interaction skills. ♦

NOTICE

**Calling everyone
between 16 - 30
yrs to join the VSC
Youth Group!!**





Celebrating Year of The

Horse 马

31 January
2014
6pm till Midnight

Continental Seafood Restaurant
150-11700 Cambie Road, Richmond, BC

Member \$60/-pp
Non Member \$65/-pp

Part of the proceeds goes to Tapestry Foundation for Senior Health Care, Mt. St. Joseph Hospital

For Tickets Please Call:
Gracie - 604.256.8679, Violet - 604.616.8258 or
Michael - 604.294.6158 to avoid disappointment!



All attendees will receive a complimentary limited edition VSC mug!



Miss World® CANADA

Design & Photography courtesy of Derrick Gan - derrick@frushanddesired.com

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CONTACT



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