

September 27th, 2009

Hi

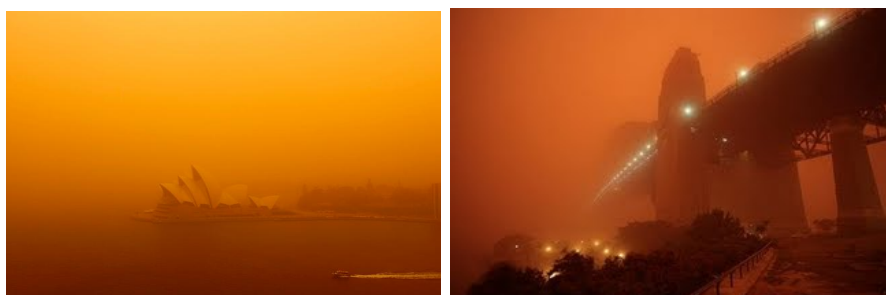
Not much to write about. The broadband technician came on Tuesday but the connection had already 'fixed' itself. I really do not know what the problem is. I thought it was the installed internal LAN card so I bought an external USB LAN card but that would not work (though it may have been due to some wrong settings). It may *not* be the building wiring this time. Also, when it fixed itself, the icon at the bottom of the screen changed and on clicking it, the box that appears is also different. It may be the Microsoft operating system.

Saw on the Australian TV news that Jonah Lomu has taken up body building to get fit. He came second in a recent competition in Wellington. His weight has dropped a lot from his peak Rugby days to *only* 114 kg from 142 kg. Later this year he will be going to France to play with a club in a lower league. He seems to



be in good condition. And to think that just a short time ago he was suffering from nephritic syndrome, a kidney disorder that condemned him to 8-hour dialysis sessions six times a week. He managed to get a kidney transplant and 12 months later was playing Rugby again.

Nadine, you will be interested in this. Did you hear/see that on one day last week Sydney and other places in Australia were blanketed in a fine red dust that was the worst for 70 years. The following day



was clear but the dust returned again the day after. For more pictures, try this website:

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/gallery/gallery-e6frewxi-1225778417848?page=1>

Two public holidays here this week. The first is on October 1st which is China's National Day and is the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic. This date is also Nana's birthday; she would have been 98 years old. The second is on Saturday which is a holiday for the mid-autumn festival. Last year, I included a note on the story of the use of mooncakes in the overthrow of Mongol rule in China. As it is interesting I have included it again (below).

In Singapore tonight, the F1 *night* race will be held for the second year. This race is significant as in the race last year, one of the two Renault team drivers was ordered to

deliberately crash his car so that his teammate could win and so have a better chance at winning the world driver's title in the few races that remained. (He won the race but not the title.) This past week, Renault received a suspended two-year ban and its boss was thrown out of F1 for life.

That's about it for now.

Cheers

Overthrow of Mongol rule

According to a widespread folk tale (not necessarily supported by historical records), the Mid-Autumn Festival commemorates an uprising in China against the Mongol rulers of the Yuan Dynasty (1280–1368) in the 14th century. As group gatherings were banned, it was impossible to make plans for a rebellion. Noting that the Mongols did not eat mooncakes, Liu Bowen (劉伯溫) of Zhejiang Province, advisor to the Chinese rebel leader Zhu Yuanzhang, came up with the idea of timing the rebellion to coincide with the Mid-Autumn Festival. He sought permission to distribute thousands of moon cakes to the Chinese residents in the city to bless the longevity of the Mongol emperor. Inside each cake, however, was inserted a piece of paper with the message: "*Kill the Mongols on the 15th day of the 8th Moon*" (八月十五殺鞑子). On the night of the Moon Festival, the rebels successfully attacked and overthrew the government. What followed was the establishment of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), under Zhu. Henceforth, the Mid-Autumn Festival was celebrated with moon cakes on a national level.

My comment: From what I have read elsewhere, it is possible that the above story refers to rebellion movements against the Mongols but **not** the **final** uprising that overthrew the Yuan Dynasty in 1368.



Zhu Yuan Zhang, founder of the Ming
Dynasty who was known as Emperor Hong Wu

Kublai Khan, Genghis Khan's grandson,
founder of Yuan Dynasty

