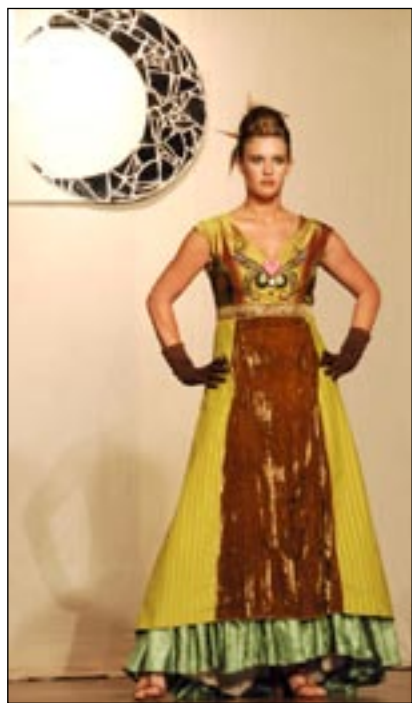


Nimbin Fashion bold and beautiful in 2006



Over 650 patrons enjoyed the spectacle of the 2006 Nimbin Fashion Shows, which after its three sell-out shows and thunderous applause has further stamped its self as a must see event on the Nimbin entertainment calendar.

The Fashion Shows presented an extremely positive representation of the Nimbin community as an alternative co-operative creative artistic centre, which was reported very

well by the local and regional print media.

According to the organisers David Hyett and Christina Chester, this year was the most successful fashion show they have presented to date. Not only because of the 3 full houses but also because of the high quality of the fashion on display which continues to improve from year to year

Over 120 of Nimbin's very own beautiful models paraded a wide variety of fashion created by 18 designers which included children's clothing, teen wear, costumes street wear, party dress morning gowns fantasy evening wear coats and high end fashion there was literally something for everyone.

This year saw interest from further a field than Nimbin with designers from Mullumbimby, Clunes The Channon and Murwillumbah participating, bringing with them fresh

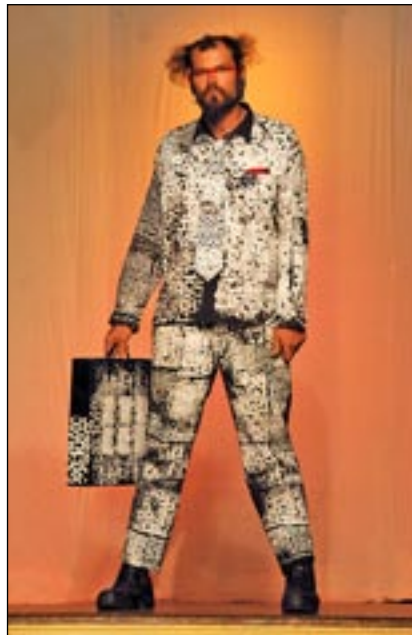
energy and further inspiration for our local designers taking the shows to a new level.

Whilst the Nimbin flavour of the shows and the development of a viable fashion industry in Nimbin will continue to be the main focus of the organising team interest from designers outside of Nimbin will be embraced as the reputation of the Fashion Shows continues to grow.

The highlights of this year's shows for the organisers was the continued improvement of the quality of fashion being produced by the younger designers, the polished performance of the experienced designers who lead the way and the high level of co-operation support and professionalism from both those involved in staging the shows, and the willingness of the models presenting the garments.

The Fashion Shows not only provides an outlet for creativity in the area of fashion design choreography dance lighting sound and visual display it also provides the opportunity for all involved to learn new skills and boost the confidence of the youth of the village who walk the catwalk with pride in themselves in front of their peers.

Many enjoyed the traditional after shows party on the last night. Models, designers, stage crew, organisers and patrons danced the night away to the world music beats of Jonathon



until the shutters went down at 2pm

Sunday morning it was up early for the Nimbin Markets to promote Nimbin as the fashion centre of our world with a mini fashion show and combined designer market stall. Designers that made the effort after a huge week benefited from their efforts with a number of garment sales.

Photographic images of all 3 shows are now available from Thorston Jones, phone 6689-7598.

The accomplished filmmaker Paul Tate has filmed the Saturday Night session a DVD will be available by contacting David Hyett phone 026689-0095 mobile 0418-824-598

If you missed the Fashion Shows this year make sure to put it on next year's calendar 16th to 18th November 2007 The Nimbin Fashion Shows is truly an annual event and the event is growing in stature in the region each year it is staged

Christina and David said, "Thank you to everyone involved. See you next year!"

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Consuming Passions

This is the final exhibition for 2006 at Blue Knob Hall Gallery, and 'Consuming Passions' is a feast of the arts!

Christopher Macartney-Filgate's pieces continue to astound, and his giant wooden mousetrap titled 'Greed' compels you to think twice about going for the \$50 bill as the bait. Rikki Fisher's passion for photography and wildlife sees her giant giclee photo prints of Nimbin scenes and birdlife full of light and shade, while her watercolour on arches paper of a Kookaburra confirms her wildlife artist ability to capture the essence of this magnificent bird.

Claire Larrivee's oil on canvas titled 'Aria' is a further exploration of her passion for this medium, and the layers of colour with gold highlights gives it a precious quality. If you are a seafood aficionado, Dianna Macartney-Filgate's exquisite watercolour titled 'Crab' gets your mouth watering!

Robin Moore has rediscovered the passion of eyesight after having her cataracts removed. She said that one colour which has really made an impact on her are blues, and so her acrylic on board seascape of iridescent blues titled 'Quiet Passions' is a celebration of her newfound sight and the healing colour of blue.

Marilyn J Smith's large luscious oil on canvas nudes titled 'Initiation by Fire' and 'She' are passionate works of colour, while Gordon Petherbridge's airbrushed 'Astral Mandala' consumes your consciousness, as it draws you into its centre.

Francisco's mixed media installation piece titled 'Woman's Day Consuming Passion' is a statement on woman's passion and obsession in some cases to look like the models in the magazines, while Angela Gill's etching and aquatint titled 'In the Spotlight' sees a woman caught eating chocolates in the dark – and we all know how consuming chocolates can be!

Len Martin's passion for photography sees some beautifully detailed close-up digital images of insects and flora, while Margie Rojo's oil and assemblages on board titled 'On Tap' and 'To be Taken When Needed' makes a very real statement about why we all must think passionately about the shortage of water in our world.

Other artists included in this show are Violet-Mae Scott with a felt, silk, wool, rayon and bark wall piece, Anthea Moffatt's large, colourful oil on canvas titled 'Kyogle Summer', Christine Wynyard's mixed media wall piece titled 'The Passion of Camelia Sinesis', Peter Ross's beautifully crafted silky oak coffee table, Shirley Miller's detailed gouache series of leaves and found objects and Lucienne Manzart's 'Once Upon a Time' – a Pan-like ceramic sculpture decorated with slips, oxides and terrasiagliata.

All in all, it is a very worthwhile trip out to Blue Knob to see our regional talent. The



Top: Rikki Fisher with her work 'Rough and Tumble' – photograph on canvas. Above: Len Martin "Frosty Mantle" – photograph.

Gallery is open Wednesdays to Sundays 10am-4pm and this exhibition will run till January 21st 2007.

Coming Gallery events Cinema at the Gallery

After popular demand, we will be running a 'Cinema at the Gallery' evening every two months during 2007. We will feature arthouse, documentaries from throughout the world, indigenous, foreign, animation and more! The first 'Cinema at the Gallery' will be held on Thursday 8th February 2007, and the title will be advised soon. We will offer a film and coffee and cake for \$12. The dates for the Thursday 'Cinema at the Gallery' nights are as follows: 8th February, 19th April, 21st June, 23rd August, 1st November 2007.

Artists and Friends Lunch

We will be continuing our regular monthly lunches in the new year. These will be organised for the second Thursday of each month at 12.30pm at the Gallery from January 2007. This has proven to be a fantastic way for artists and friends to enjoy a fantastic meal and lively conversation, so please put the dates in your diary.

THE STORY BEHIND OMI

Mac McMahon has just completed his installation of 'OMi' at the Nimbin Museum

This work of art resulted from Donato Rosella's sculpture class at the Nimbin Open Learning Centre this year. It is made of papier mâché and is three metres long. It seems to fit in nicely with the Age of Aquarius theme of the museum and it is sympathetic to the world's current environmental situation.

The OMi is a giant body, the spirit of the galaxy, holding the earth in its hands. The signs of the zodiac run up and down the arms and legs. Other astronomical objects are featured, namely the Sun, Moon and Saturn. Amongst the signs of the Zodiac are written the names of some of Nimbin's children.

Any parents who wish their children's names to be 'written in the stars' may leave their names at the Museum or contact Mac



Mac's sculpture, representing the spirit of the universe, installed near the Temple of Greed exhibit in the Museum cafe.

on 6689-0043 or email omigourd@hotmail.com with the child's name and star sign or birth date. About thirty children's names have already been painted into their corresponding zodiac sign.

Photos of OMi can be seen on Mac McMahon's website <www.omigourd.bravehost.com> Just go to the omigourd gallery and look in the art section.

The following verse captures the ideas behind the

installation:

This is OMi, the great spirit of our Galaxy, watching over Mother Earth our home.

OMi will always protect us and only OMi can take back this gift to us our Mother Earth.

In this life we are each here for a short time and surely we are bound to love, nurture and cherish this gift of Mother Earth and journey with her for this awesome voyage through the stars.

Mac McMahon

Artcamp again excels

by John Tredrea, director

Artcamp International Border Ranges National Park Forest Tops, 1st-4th November 2006

Thank you to the Githabala Custodians for allowing us there, and thank you to the Bundjalung custodians for their support. Thank you to the National Parks and Wildlife for their assistance.

The weather was cold at night and warm enough to swim during the day. We transformed the national parks and wildlife hut to have a carpeted floor, two hot fires and a kitchen. The mothership chai tent became the second prep area and accommodation.

As the camp was relatively small, the quality of the art produced was big. Sculptures were very numerous, made from clay. The children present produced some great artworks in clay and paint. Good connections were made with the local custodians on their traditional tribal lands. All of us benefited from the artcamp and camping with the Githabala and Bundjalung custodians.

I feel healed to an extent and am confident of the next artcamp to be successful.

Some of the artists went on bush walks in the World Heritage National Park to Sheep Station creek and Blackbutt. Most of the cooking was done on the fire. Talented music and songs came from crew with Contemporary and Indigenous traditional music and singing from the Bundjalung custodians

around the fire one night, and a great song sung by us the next night.

The weather closed in on the 4th and we left. An amazing experience for all involved. Thanks again to the Custodians for letting us sit with them.

Artcamp International is slowly but surely building a truly International business with artcamp 4 and 5 in the 2007. Exhibitions are planned for January in Byron Bay to promote the next artcamps. Some of the artworks produced will be on sale at Tribal Earth Designs, Star Court Arcade, Lismore, in time for Christmas.

For more information please have a look at the website, www.artcampinternational.com.

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GUNNS' GUNG HO FOR TASSIE FORESTS

Help Us Save Tasmania's Old Growth Forests!

Australia's island state of Tasmania is home to some of the Earth's most incredible plants and animals, including ancient old-growth forests and the world's tallest hardwood trees.

Tragically these global treasures are rapidly being destroyed by the logging company Gunns Limited. Gunns routinely clear-cuts these pristine ancient forests at a rate of 44 football fields per day, then firebomb the clear-cut land, and finally kills any remaining wildlife with the controversial poison 1080.

Streams are polluted, 400-year-old trees destroyed; habitats incinerated, and threatened species killed. Join us in demanding that Gunns stop destroying Tasmania's remaining old growth forests and commit to sustainable forestry practices that will allow forests to be enjoyed by everyone for generations to come.



Now Gunns is planning to build a chlorine-bleaching pulp mill that would double the destruction of Tasmania's native forests while polluting the atmosphere and local marine environment. The pulp mill would consume over 4.5 million tons of woodchips every year. Thousands of the world's oldest and largest eucalyptus trees will be turned into woodchips for paper production, landscaping and particle board. Is this really what we want to do to our planet's most prized natural resources? Tell Gunns not to build the Tassie Pulp

Mill and commit to modern sustainable forest practices that will allow future generations to enjoy our world's oldest trees.

We at Rainforest Action Network work to raise awareness about the linkage between destructive corporate practices and the impacts of those practices on our natural world. We are ending human rights abuses against First Nation communities, stopping destructive investments from the world's most powerful banks and charting a new course towards a sane and sustainable global economy.

Would the Egyptians knock down the Pyramids?

Take a moment to imagine a cultural icon six times older than the Pyramids, eight times older than Stonehenge. Imagine probably the earliest surviving rock carvings on this planet: close to a million images of ancient faces and our earliest fauna, including the mighty Tasmanian tiger, spread throughout a group of small islands alongside the west coast of Australia.

Most Australians have never even heard of these rock carvings on the Burrup Peninsula - and have no idea this silent world treasure is at risk of being needlessly pulled apart and destroyed from blind industrial development. But we can tell Australia's Environment Minister now that we want to save the remaining rock art from further destruction, and help Burrup become what it should be: one of the world's most well-known and safely-visited heritage sites.

Burrup, or Murrjuga by its Indigenous name, also happens to be the site of a liquefied natural gas plant (LNG), an operation jointly owned by the largest petrochemical companies in the world and managed by Woodside Energy Ltd. It's a \$20 billion venture, which currently provides almost two-thirds of WA's gas supply and export. But Woodside now has plans to expand on their own, with a new LNG facility set to cut straight through this prehistoric university

So far, at least 10,000 rock carvings have already been lost from uncontrolled development. New industrial plans could lead to the loss of thousands more, with federal and state government authorities admitting up to 40 per cent of the rock art could be dismantled or destroyed to accommodate expansion. It's like splitting Stonehenge or the Pyramids in half, drilling for oil and packing the nicest bits in a nearby quarry.

The truth is, we



most unlikely allies: a former Labor Premier of WA and a former Liberal Minister for State Development both argue Burrup should become a heritage site, with further development moved to more economically profitable locations and traditional custodians consulted.

We have a once in a generation opportunity to rise above old, unimaginative thinking to save an Australian and world heritage treasure. Submissions are due in a matter of days: this is the moment we can give Australia's richest, unknown island the chance for a different future. Click on the link below to be part of GetUp's submission, and you can also write your own. www.getup.org.au/campaign/SaveOurHeritage Thank you for taking action today that will matter to generations far into the future,

The GetUp team

• In the past week GetUp members have flexed your muscle and even we've been amazed. Your response to our David Hicks Billboards for Justice campaign has shown that each of us chipping in a little adds up to a lot. And thanks to this spirit of courage and community, we're booking our first people-powered billboards right now in Adelaide and Sydney. We'll have photos and exact details on our website as soon as we have 100 per cent confirmation. Thank you, and stay tuned!

Om for world peace

These are the two prayers spoken at Peace Park, on Remembrance Day, 11th November 2006.

Global Declaration of Interdependence

We, the people of Planet Earth, in recognition of the Interconnectedness of all life and the importance of the Balance of Nature, hereby acknowledge our Interdependence and affirm our dedication to: lifeserving environmental stewardship, the fulfilment of Universal human needs worldwide, economic and social wellbeing and a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence to ensure a sustainable and harmonious World for Present and Future Generations.

Thanks to: www.wethepeople.org



Peaceful purposes. A diverse group of people came together at 11am to play their part in sending an OM around the globe.

A Living Prayer

On behalf of the citizens of the Rainbow Region we humbly ask for help from the Higher Realms to release their Healing upon Humanity. We who know are now ready to receive this simple gift from source. Please make this Healing available to all Humans of all persuasions and may this enchantment be granted and activated from the Heart Chakra of the Rainbow Region now.

We ask forgiveness from the Animal, Bird, Fish and Insect Kingdoms and reach out our hands now to connect with the world of Faerie - Guardians of the Plant and Tree Kingdom, so WE may truly become Guardians of our Bluish Green Planet, EaRTh - particularly here in Nimbin Australia at this, the Beginning of the Age of Aquarius. So Be It.

Adapted from: www.avalonrising.org

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The NSW Christmas Bush

by David McMinn

NSW Christmas Bush (*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*) is an erect shrub or small tree, growing up to 5 m high by 1.5 m across. In late spring, the small tree has attractive terminal sprays of white star-like flowers, which are followed by beautiful reddened, swollen sepals in summer. The foliage is also very pleasing with light green, trifoliate leaves. The species is native to the coast and near coastal ranges from the Blue Mountains to the Richmond River. Christmas Bush is found in rainforests, as well as in the moist gullies of open Eucalyptus forests. It is one of five Australian tree species within the genus *Ceratopetalum*, with the large rainforest tree, Coachwood, being a close relative. (Sepals, for those not so botanically minded, are the modified leaves which enclose and protect the floral parts during the development of the flower.)

Beautiful 'Flowers'

The bunches of sepals make excellent cut 'flowers', which can last up to three weeks. As the common name implies, the bright red sepals are most obvious around Christmas and they are very popular for floral decorations at that time of year. The plant has been cultivated commercially for well over 100 years, with the 'flowers' now being widely sold within Australia and exported overseas. The demand and prices for the 'flowers' peak before Christmas and drop off dramatically afterwards.

Christmas Bush needs moist well drained soils to prevent attacks by root rotting fungi. The plants also appreciate mulching and heavy pruning during and after flowering. It is a heavy feeder and needs the applications of fertiliser - organic or chemical depending on your personal preference. Unlike many Australian plants, it is not



phosphate sensitive and a general slow release fertiliser is suitable. The species is fast growing and hardy when fully established. A sunny position is preferred for good flowering. The plant is able to cope with frosts down to about -3°C, any lower and problems will arise with frost damage. Although it may be grown from seed, selected cultivars must always be propagated by cuttings, which take time to establish roots. Grafted plants are not yet available commercially.

The most troubling pests are leaf-curling psyllids, which can attack new growth. Scale can also be an on going problem, especially if the plants are not growing well. One source recommended using regular oil-soap sprays at 4 - 10 week intervals (Synertrol and NatraSoap). These sprays



are environment-friendly and effective if used regularly before the insects become well established.

Named Varieties

It is a very attractive long lived plant for the home garden, with several named cultivars. You may like to grow both red and white varieties to give a great colour contrast in your Christmas cut flower arrangements.

Red Varieties. 'Albery's Red' has dark red coloured flowers and is a moderately vigorous grower. This is the most important variety for the commercial cut flower trade. Another variety, 'Shiraz' has larger leaves and deeper red sepals than 'Albery's Red'.

White Varieties: 'White Christmas' has white sepals instead of the usual red colour. 'Silent Night' is a newer variety with large white sepals, lime green foliage and vigorous growth. These varieties may have a problem with brown spots on the white sepals, due to fungal spotting.

'Christmas Snow' has white and green variegated leaves and apparently there is also a variety with burgundy coloured leaves.

Have a great Christmas.

Green Corps projects for Nimbin area



Seeking expressions of interest from community organisations in and around Nimbin

JOB futures SEQ is currently seeking expressions of interest for a Green Corps Team in the Nimbin Area.

We are seeking to assist a number of community organisations, landcare and environment groups in and around Nimbin under the (proposed) title of "Growing Nimbin - A Combined Community Project" This approach will enable a number of community groups to access the support and assistance of a Green Corps team.

Green Corps is a Commonwealth Government initiative. Teams are made up of 10 young people aged between 17 and 20. Team members are paid a training allowance of \$283/week (35hrs/week) for a 6 month period. Team members are also provided with uniforms, accredited training in Conservation and Land Management as well as transported to project sites from a central pick up point.

Teams are supervised by a full time team leader (who would be employed by JOB futures SEQ), to manage and coordinate the day to day project activities of the team.

Teams, team leader and community groups involved in the project are also supported by a Green Corps Co-ordinator who provides additional support to, on average, 4-6 Green Corps projects across the region.

More information about Green Corps can be viewed on www.greenfutures.com.au

What sort of project activities do Green Corps team members do?

Your group is invited to nominate a range of project activities that your group would like to be assisted with by the team.

Typical project activities include: tree planting; seed collecting; plant propagation and nursery work; establishing seed banks; conservation of threatened species; community education; organising community environment events; weed control; projects that have an ecologically sustainable focus or theme; track construction; cultural and/or heritage activities; establishing interpretive trails and developing interpretive signs; maps or brochures; building nesting boxes and bird hides and controlling erosion on stream banks.

Anticipated project commencement: May 2007

If your group or organisation is interested in obtaining the support of the team please fill in the following information and return it no later than 8th December 2006 to Green Corps, JOB futures SEQ. Email: greencorps@jobfutures-seq.com, fax 07 5575-7197.

Nimbin Landcare have offered to facilitate coordinating the Green Corps project and team, and be the "Designated Partner Agency" for the purpose of the application process. If you would like to discuss your project ideas prior to completing an application form, please call Gillian Ainscough on 07 5575-8157 during business hours or give Wal Davies a call on 02 6689-1226 for more information about the project.

Nimbin Garden Club

Nimbin has many fine gardens and gardeners. You can enjoy them with the Nimbin Garden Club Inc.

Our gardens range from the established formal, through rainforest regeneration, growing natives, works-in-progress to the vegie patch. We tend to be social and non-competitive but united in our love of gardening and growing plants. The Club, almost 10 years old, is open to all and currently has about 40 paid-up members. Membership fees are \$10 per annum per person.

We meet at 2pm on the third Saturday of each month, usually at a member's garden, to swap ideas and plants and chat with each other. Each member brings a folding chair, a cup and a small

plate of food to share for afternoon tea. Sometimes we have an invited speaker.

We also have excursions to other gardens in the area or other places of interest. This year we visited the Mountain Top Coffee Plantation and Owen Whitney's Macadamia Plantation. We are affiliated with the Garden Club of Australia.

We have a members' web-page at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nimbingardenclub/> Every eighteen months or so the club organises a Nimbin Open Gardens Weekend in which a variety of local gardens are opened to the general public. The funds raised by the entrance fees are then donated to local Nimbin community groups.

The next Nimbin Open



Garden club members Lindy Bentley, Andrea Mutschall and Gai Reid getting into the Christmas spirit at the recent club lunch at Annie's Country Tea Gardens. Photo: Jan Schilling.

Gardens Weekend is planned for the weekend of 14th and 15th April 2007, so if you have a garden that you would like to show off, please contact a member of our committee.

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ASTROLOGICAL TRENDS FOR DECEMBER 2006



by Bev Murray - Insight Astrology

BIRTHDAY – Sagittarius

Sagittarians are inquisitive, expansive and Senthusiastic! They have an absolute belief in their ability to do just about anything, even when time and logic says otherwise!! They love travel and gaining knowledge. They are the philosophers of the Zodiac. Generosity to a fault can be a problem!

Give them: A trip away, a good bottle of red and a willing ear, three of anything for luck or a world music cd.

Aries

A good month for learning and growth in general. Changes to plans are likely on the 22nd to 23rd. Financially, look for value rather than a bargain! Success is about sticking to what you know.

Taurus

Your social life will be great but the strain on your purse could be a worry. The December full Moon on the 5th can add an unexpected expense as well so be prepared! Travel is favoured!

Gemini

Others can be quite demanding this month. However, those working in education or communication fields are particularly favoured. Venus and Jupiter are working to make you look good!

Cancer

The 3rd and 4th can bring a surprise that appreciates your intellect. Health and work routines can be smartened up after the new moon on the 21st. You'll feel much better for it!

Leo

The month begins with a good amount of creative and romantic potential. The full Moon adds intensity and passion! You are beginning a lovely cycle of abundance and fulfillment. Enjoy!

Virgo

Family and general obligations will take a fair bit of your time this month. Do what is required and keep smiling. After the 28th you can relax and feel more loving and generous. Be patient.

Libra

Creativity offers great opportunities throughout December. The Full Moon on the 5th highlights an obsession and the New Moon on the 21st highlights enterprising ideas. Watch finances!

Scorpio

This is a quiet month for you with a nice lift of energy after the 19th. Romance is looking good and financial success is assured. The 12th sees Mars and Jupiter cooking up an unforgettable time.

Sagittarius

Your social life and anything of a personal nature are highly favourable during December. The 17th –20th has the Sun joining Pluto, which pushes you forward and makes it easy to overcome obstacles.

Capricorn

Trust the intuition and any hunches you have now, they're spot on. The first week is probably your best so use it wisely! The rest of the month is rather low key. You are happy to rest.

Aquarius

Heavy spending is best put off until after the 20th when your intent will get the bargains. Remember to appreciate others and you should find that people are more cooperative than usual.

Pisces

Try not to over-commit yourself! Just do one thing at a time and avoid confusion. Reckless spending is not in your favour. Personal and work needs are likely to clash, don't let it become bigger than it is.

What will 2007 hold for you?

Have your chart done by our experienced astrologer, Bev Murray.
Email Bev: insightbevmurray@yahoo.com

Watch for Bev's predictions in the January edition of Nimbin GoodTimes

Wind powers ReGenesis farm

With the support of non-profit entity Rainforest Rescue, ReGenesis has erected Byron Shire's first 20kw wind turbine at ReGenesis Farm.

This turbine is the third of its kind to be erected in NSW and ReGenesis is proud to be finally hoisting the turbine, which will be grid interactive and will provide enough energy to power the farm's extensive on site irrigation system and cool room.

The council approval of a 12 month trial for the turbine came after a controversial and exhaustive Shire-wide debate and extensive opposition from

a community concerned about fauna, visual and noise impacts.

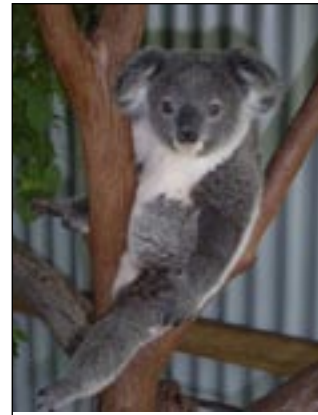
During the 12 month trial a rigorous assessment and monitoring of fauna and noise impacts will be undertaken by ReGenesis in partnership with Byron Shire Council. However, paradoxically, the criteria for judging the assessment has not been set by council.

The use of alternative energy is integral to the ReGenesis' concept of demonstrating the triple bottom line efficacy of organic and ecological food production as an alternative to extractive, petro-chemical

driven, agriculture. The turbine will save the atmosphere approx. 1,000 tonnes of green house gases in its life time, says Danielle Leonard – Managing Director.

With the UN's millennium assessment report citing agriculture as one of the leading global culprits in terms of loss of biodiversity, destruction of the planet's ecosystems and impacts on climate change, ReGenesis is hoping a conscientious market will choose ecologically produced organic food over more conventionally cultivated produce.

Koala Kolumn



Increasingly they are the victims of motor accidents. Habitat disturbance means that koalas' home ranges must be more extensive. Dispersing young have to travel further, necessitating them to cross more and busier roads.

In recent years about 20% of the koalas brought in to care by Friends of the Koala have impacted with a moving vehicle. Of the reports we receive of dead animals, most are on or immediately adjacent to roads. While ever roads pass through koala habitat or movement corridors, it is very difficult to eliminate the threat traffic poses to them.

Frankie - an orphan who came in with dog puncture wounds to his rump from Boorie Creek. He also had pneumonia. Brought in 21st September, now looking good!

important to us. The Nimbin Environment Centre has agreed to assist in this exchange by stocking information brochures and being the distribution and receipt point for sighting sheets.

A koala is usually healthy if it has a thick, grey/white coat, clear eyes, a dry bottom and it is high in a tree (not necessarily a food-tree). The sick koala is most often identifiable by being at the base of a tree, or in the lower branches curled up in a ball; having encrusted red eyes and or a wet, smelly bottom; and or appearing wasted with a brownish tinge to its coat.

Koalas need to be healthy in order to be able to pull their body weight when climbing. Put simply, a sick koala cannot climb, therefore it cannot eat and will starve. When a koala does not eat enough it does not take long for metabolic failure to occur.

Koalas are susceptible to a wide range of diseases, some which are stress-related.

It is possible, however, to reduce the number of koalas hit. In study after study slower speed has been found to reduce the incident of collision with wildlife. The sooner an injured or sick koala comes into care the greater chance it has of returning successfully to the wild. Rehabilitation is more likely to take a much quicker period of time.

In future columns we will talk more about home-ranges, habitat, diseases and the status of koalas across the Northern Rivers.

Please report sick, injured or dead koalas to Friends of the Koala by phoning the Rescue Hotline: 6622-1233. If you want to report sightings either phone or fill out a sightings sheet available from the Nimbin Environment Centre.

If you have questions you want answered about koalas or Friends of the Koala please email us at friends_koala@hotmail.com

House Plans
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Refrigeration vs global warming

by Peter Pedals

You can go to a whitegoods retailer and find an array of refrigerators for sale with a range of mod-cons that give you the impression that you are looking at some of the most scientifically advanced products that money can buy. You will see the mandatory star rating sticker on the fridge which and you may then be excused to thinking that this is as good as good as fridges can get with present day technology. As I will explain, this is far from the truth.

Most fridges have the freezer right at the top and the compressor motor down the bottom of the cabinet. We know from our High School science that hot air is less dense than cold air and thus the hot air rises and the cold air sinks. You can buy an upside down fridge with the freezer at the bottom and the fridge at the top. The problem is that the compressor motor is also at the bottom.

Almost all fridges are of the upright variety where every time you open the door the cold air falls out and if the seal isn't working properly the cold air is leaking out continuously.

I looked up the effect of the thickness of the insulation in relation to refrigerators on the Internet assuming the use of modern insulation with a high insulating capacity after a fridge technician had told us that the thickness of the insulation makes surprisingly little difference. I thought that this did not sound correct and two sites I found on the Internet both came up with a very unsurprising result. One site suggested a direct linear relationship (ie if you double the insulation thickness you halve the heat gain) and the other site suggested an almost linear relationship.

My personal experience backs up the results on the Internet. The common refrigerator only has 30mm of insulation and 50mm of insulation around the freezer. The lack of insulation is in the name of space saving (ie



to have maximum internal volume whilst minimising the external space it takes up).

Whereas in the past the heat exchanger (those black pipes offset from the back of the fridge) have now pretty much been done away with. The heat exchanger is now usually built inside of the rear wall of the fridge cabinet, sharing that space with the insulation. As well as that, all the common fridges above 170 litre in size now come equipped with auto defrost where a heating element is built into the side walls of the fridge to melt any frost build up on the fridge wall.

Thus you have the very same fridge walls that are trying to keep the contents cool also being heated up. You can't tell me that this is all in the name of energy efficiency. It is purely a matter of perceived user convenience and it seems to matter little that penguins and polar bears may become extinct as we heat up the planet for our user convenience.

An even worse aspect of user convenience in the number of people who now turn on their home air conditioner before they hop in their air conditioned car to drive to their air conditioned office such that at the end of the day their home is pleasantly cool. The hotter the climate gets the more common this

scenario will become. When you consider that the home, the car and the office are even more poorly designed to act as a fridge that the actual fridge itself is you must come to the conclusion that this behaviour is a form of environmental vandalism.

I have recently purchased a new 125 litre chest type fridge with 125mm of insulation all round. According to the linear relationship of the effect of the insulation, a fridge with 125mm of insulation should use one quarter of the amount of energy compared to an equivalent fridge with only 30mm of insulation.

As well as this the twin 12 volt compressor motors vent out through the top on one side, it has no built-in heating elements and the cold air doesn't fall out when I open it.

I am running it off my solar power system so that its greenhouse effect is negligible. To avoid spending extra money on my existing solar

power system I am operating it via a 12 volt programmable timer such that it only works between the hours of 10am and 5pm in summer and 10am and 3pm in winter.

I have placed two layers of ice bricks in the bottom of the fridge with a horizontal perspex partition and turned the thermostat down to the point where it freezes below the partition but not above it.

Thus the fridge is working as a thermal storage device, converting the solar energy into thermal energy and storing it through the night, thus not requiring any battery storage and making the solar energy more efficient by using it as it is produced. It will gain just a few degrees after being turned off all night.

I had two concerns about the top opening fridge. One was that it might be more difficult to find stuff in there than in a front opening fridge. To my surprise, I found it to be quite the opposite. The fridge has a large footprint but is only as deep as a tall bottle of drink and so nearly everything is next to each other like on a big shelf and because I look down on it I can usually see what I am looking for in one glance (nothing is hiding behind anything else).

Somehow, because it is all one single shelf, I seem to be able to fit as much in the 125 litre chest fridge as I could with my 220 litre gas fridge.

I thought this was going to be a compromise for the sake of reducing my gas consumption as the fridge that this replaces was a 220 litre gas fridge.

I am actually finding it better in every way than the front opening fridge.



Homeopathics

By Tarang Bates

Having spent some time down in South Australia this last month, I can tell you, we live in one of the most lush, green places on the planet – that's probably one of the reasons most of us have chosen this beautiful place, of rivers & mountains, oceans & valleys. A respect and reverence for the trees and plants that make our lives possible, providing us with oxygen, shade, healing and so much beauty, is a given around here.

Even the beauty of the crisp, brown South was captivating. Eucalypts, wild and huge of unimaginable colours, Warratahs, Callistemons in full bloom, saltbush dotted amongst the dryness, these plants manage to thrive. Not so lucky are the white bleached skeletons of the majestic River Red Gums, standing amongst their fallen on the banks of the Murray – the earth at their feet, covered with a white film of salt.

Trees and plants surviving against all odds, in all conditions, despite human ignorance of the sacredness of their existence. It amazes me to come across people who are scared or hate trees – yes they do exist! Plants are a primary source of homeopathic medicine and I thought it might be interesting to explore the source and uses of some of these remedies.

Phytolacca

Another name is Poke Root or red ink plant, owing to its dark purple berries. Breast feeding women have often been grateful for the relief this remedy gives to swollen, engorged breasts and mastitis. It is also useful for swollen glands, particularly around the jaw and ears, tonsils and sore throats.

Symphytum

Better known as Comfrey or knitbone, for its reputation of healing breaks and



fractures. It is worth taking this remedy, for a month or two after a break to assist the healing process. Also useful in eye and face, bone and cartilage injuries.

Hypericum

Or St. Johns Wort, is a fantastic wound remedy. Used to ward off infection, particularly in deep unclean wounds, wounds with a red stripe radiating away from the site (this signifies infection) and gravel rash. A good nerve repair remedy for falls on the coccyx , slamming a finger in a door or a good old wack with a hammer.

It's probably useful to know, that both Hypericum and Comfrey have been on the list of noxious weeds for the weedie to legally search and destroy. Another example of ignorance and disrespect, for a couple of wonderful medicinal plants.

Thuja

Is an evergreen conifer, it is called White Cedar although not a true cedar. The wood is fragrant and the foliage and cones aromatic when crushed. A useful remedy for warts and one of the remedies useful for mouth ulcers when there is dryness and burning. Also in herpes outbreaks, severe and adverse reactions from vaccinations.

The remedies discussed here today have many other uses, we are talking first aid and acute treatment and it may be necessary to have a more indepth look into a particular ailment and how it is effecting a person. These remedies available from Nimbin Homeopathics contact Tarang Bates on 02 66891452 or email tarangbates@yahoo.com.au

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Ethics & regional sustainability: a case study

by Richard Patton
Red Dragon Inn
www.reddragoninn.com.au



For the past twenty seven years Red Dragon Inn, makers of luscious handmade Organic Ginger Beer, have been supplying Nimbin and the Rainbow valleys with the Dragon's brew, by way of the Channon and Nimbin market Red Dragon Inn Organic drinks stall.

It is four years since Red Dragon Inn went 'commercial' to foster ethical business dedicated to sustainability in our region; with Nimbin being a major support base.

Thank you Nimbin! - every bottle bought helps support an ethical biz which is still acting from its heart.

Red Dragon Inn believes that:

- Our consumer dollar holds the greatest power ordinary Australians have to effect change toward the future we want.

- We have a choice in how we spend our consumer dollar.
- We can use it to help shape the future world we want for our children, a world of ethics and sustainability.

- We need to support local ethical biz and deny our \$ to the unethical and multinational businesses that are our geopolitical enemies and the enemies of sustainable development.

- Ethical Consumerism is vital. If businesses are primarily supported or rejected by consumers on their ethical values first, and then on their sustainability values, society can move forward with confidence.

Red Dragon Inn has policies to aid in all aspects of regional sustainability.

- **Environmental**
Red Dragon Inn encourages the switch for regional agriculture to certified organic farming with its attendant land stewardship responsibilities and adherence to principles of agricultural, social, and environmental sustainability.

Red Dragon Inn will at all times minimise packaging and use recycled material wherever

possible.

In the case of the live Red Dragon Inn organic ginger beer, plastic bottles have to be used for safety. It could be in glass only if pasteurised - ie. heat treatment process.

All organic waste at the Red Dragon Inn kitchen is either composted on Warra Warra organic farm or is collected for Lismore's state of the art worm farm. Red Dragon Inn organic ginger beer is distributed in the Northern Rivers and Brisbane without using any packing cartons, and for shipping we use recycled cartons.

Red Dragon Inn believes action to dramatically reduce transport requirements, ie 'food miles', for all inputs; and to focus on regional sales goes a long way to reducing negative environmental and social consequences of the food and drinks we buy.

- **Social and Political**
Red Dragon Inn emphasises regional processing, helping create pride, unity and empowerment in regional society; leading to demand for greater decentralised regional political autonomy; thereby encouraging a Regional perception improving social cohesion.

Red Dragon Inn believes Regional and Federal governance is all Australia needs and can afford. Further layers (eg State) of governance only dilute the democratic functioning.

Boosting organic farm pride, and small town pride by acknowledging, at last, the vital role of local caring farmers in growing us clean nutritious food.

Every \$ spent on Regional produce and products denies that \$ to the unethical multinationals and rogue corporations who are our geopolitical enemies and the enemy of sustainable

development.

We need to start, develop and support ethically based regional businesses that adhere to principles of regional sustainability; thereby leaving the consumer, the environment and the local economy in better health. This is not easy. By definition it is hard to start a sustainability based business in an economic climate dominated by anti-sustainable and anti-regional practices, structures and rewards.

Government likes the status quo and only consumer pressure can bring about change. Multinationals do not care if you like them or not, only that you consume their products and give them your \$; some of which they then give to politicians to maintain the unsustainable status quo.

Deny them your \$ and the basis of their power evaporates.

- **Economic Sustainability**
Red Dragon Inn strives to help move our region toward a more sustainable economic model of Regional farming, processing, employment and sales, which stimulate Regional economic activity and income both directly and through the 'multiplier effect'.

This Regional economic model is the future of economic sustainability of all regions in all countries. At present we have the economic opposite - multinational corporations whose products drain money and employment from the regions, use much fuel, and clog roads trucking (materials)/ inputs and products all around the world.

The multinationals in league with western governments have distorted the world of food production, of wealth accumulation and of world trade. They exploit the weakest worldwide link in the chain of production, write the trade rules, exploit all subsidies

available to them and exploit whatever political influence they can grab or buy.

They are by nature unethical and profit driven only. This passes as modern 'free trade' economics.

Regional economic sales are to both residents of the region and visiting tourists. If tourists spend \$ on local produced and sourced products then the region gets an economic boost

without having to transport products to where the tourist came from. Obviously it enhances tourist experiences and helps create a regional image to attract tourists. The difference to a regions economy and health, and the planet's health, between a tourist spending a \$1 in Nimbin (or in Bali) on a local product or on an 'imported' product is dramatic. One builds, the other

destroys.

Red Dragon Inn exists to process local Organic produce locally into high quality clean nutritious drinks for local sale to locals and tourists alike and to displace the sale of multinational 'imported' products thereby aiding the Regional economy, Regional identity and empowerment, the environment, organic farmers and people's health.

UNITY AND THE MAGIC OF LOVE: THE MISSING ELEMENTS

by Sophia Hoeben

Words have been so misused and abused that many essential meanings, vital to our understanding as human beings, have been swallowed up in a quagmire of hackneyed phrases and adages. As a result, there are many words in our language now devoid of any real meaning or effect because they have become so much of a cliché as to be nauseating. So now, it's a struggle finding new words to convey or emote a thought. Yet, as a writer and keen observer of humanity, I'm aware the old words work perfectly well when read, heard or spoken by clear-minded people and of the need to reclaim parts of our language lost to repetition and conditioned thinking. As an exercise in bringing back some real meaning to just two words unity and love, I write the following:

Once upon a time in a beautiful land of forested mountains and shining waters lived a peaceful colourful tribe of people called the Long Hairs. They'd come from far away polluted cities, escaping society's embrace of war, greed and the destruction of the world. The Long Hairs had refused to join in the ranks of humans lined up for a share of the capitalistic future ahead of them. Instead they made pilgrimage to a valley where rainbows are born and there, with love

in their hearts, set up a community, the first in all the land. Their motivations were pure; they wanted to live in harmony with the Earth and each other. They planted their gardens and built their houses with Mother Earth in mind, using recycled materials and renewable power. Most of all, in their very being, they promoted love and peace throughout the world.

As time went by, the capitalistic world outside the rainbow bubble infiltrated the Long Hairs' altruistic lifestyle. The price of land soon rose dramatically, attracting a different socio-economic class of people to the valley. These people, often with more money than sense, did not necessarily have the Earth's best interest at heart in their everyday dealings. The price of a modest home in the bush was suddenly something no Long Hair could now afford.

Greed breeds distrust and soon no one trusted anyone and no one cared about what had been lost, in fact, some people even forgot what it was they had lost. Gone was the spiritual life based on nature, Gone was love and trust between communal occupants. Everyone began fighting with each other and the future was lost to disharmony.

Another element at work was a local feature in the landscape; three mighty rocks, the remains of ancient mountains and a place of dreaming for Aboriginal

people. As an initiation place for men, the energies emanating from the rocks were so powerfully male that the women of the tribe living close by them grew weary of being pushed into the background or even worse, abused for their efforts. The gender war spread, until many of the Long Hairs lived alone, and as everyone knows, loneliness is not a healthy state of existence. The Long Hairs grew weak and unity as a tribe was lost when they could no longer share their life or their feelings with each other. Soon, the big city capitalist moved in to pillage and profit from Long Hairs' demise, by 'developing' their beautiful rainbow valley.

Through unity alone we can stand up to the developers, just as through love alone we can learn to trust again. Why do we continue to sap our collective energy with disunity? We do not stand a chance of surviving the world as it will be in the near future if we do not find the love and unity we once shared when we saved the mighty forests around us. Our thirty-year young culture has achieved much considering the number of enemies we made along the way. We are reviled at every turn as dirty dope-smoking do-nothing hippies, and that's just another cliché which needs addressing before we can feel better about ourselves again.

Let's heal the wounds between us and bring the magic back - after all, time is running out.

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THE CLARION CALL... TO 2012 AND BEYOND

by Binnah

It is totally understandable that some may feel jaded and cynical about the way our society has evolved (or not) since Aquarius came to Nimbin and set a new tone.

But isn't that feeling of frustration such a disempowered position to sit in? It is just too painful to sit there attempting to bury oneself in anything else but the reality that it's crunch time. There just has to be a way out of here...and there is.

We have to find a belief system outside the everyday world as we presently know it, or ALL can seem totally lost. The greatest tool of the people against what some call the 'fourth-dimensional Luciferian consciousness' and others usually call a government that seems intent on trashing the planet, (us included) is still our reawakening spirituality and our deeper understandings about the absolute interconnectedness of everything and how we as a species fit into that concept.

In fact it is all about re-discovering who we really are and what we are actually doing here - beyond the money game. This is where the hippy/alternate/new age movement that we loosely (I stress loosely) represent in Australia - is called on to really contemplate the navel (again), dig deep and re-discover our true being (again!).

Nimbin got off to a good start on the search of re-discovery with the Aquarius Festival in '73, but generally, in recent years there doesn't seem to be much real and noticeable progress on 'the road to enlightenment'. Besides the slowing effect of outside interference, Pot and other substances when abused, seem to have clouded the air somewhat...Where were we again?...oh yeah...

More importantly and in relation to the slowing of progress is that for many, Love has been foundering



Unconditional love. Binnah's plan for the future of the planet.

on the rocks (no aspersions intended on the Nimbin Rocks). Not that old fashioned 'looking for love in another' routine, but Unconditional Love - particularly for one's self and others and which ultimately involves dealing with big issues such as 'forgiveness' and 'deeper understanding'.

Some say the Venus transit in June 2005 signified the actual start of the Age of Aquarius. The transit also signified the return of the Feminine Principle, representing truth and ethics returning to focus again. Traditional astrology and ancient Mayan calculations concur that the cosmic weather pattern is more open and conducive for our dreams to become reality now than for many thousands of years before.

It's time to literally grow up, if not now, when? Without wanting to sound too exotically dramatic, let it be said that there are some great and largely unseen and unheard of movements happening around us. The Rainbow Serpent spirit is fully activating again and portals are preparing to open. Whether we know it or not, that same energy is rising up in us too, as the old edict 'as above, so below' kicks in. Can you feel it?

Despite the opposition, the fact is that we do have the general climate of 'undercurrent' things flowing our way. We have the full support of the Ancestors in any forward movement we do from here. This is the news kept from us and that you don't hear in the manicured daily media.

Flash!!! We are stepping through to new times... the transition through 2012 to a better world could be a little bumpy though. We may actually need each other in the near future to survive somehow. Ultimately it won't just be food, water and who has got the best and most that will get us through, it will be the actual LOVE between us. That is the way the magic works....

Our minds are pretty powerful. We can change our reality at the drop of a hat if we really want. As is slowly being explained via our science and through DVDs like 'What The Bleep Do We Know' and 'The Secret', we are very powerful beings who create our own reality - especially when we focus our thoughts together as One positive Vision and on One Law. What we believe is real, IS.

It is suggested that we make peace with ourselves first, then make peace of a solid foundation with family, friends and neighbours. There is not a lot of time left for the planet and her beings to up their vibe. We are at critical mass point.

So no time better than the present to get out of your comfort zone, focus not on your personal world, but rather look wider to the bigger picture and look how you can fit into the big (re) creation plan. Get involved or wallow for evermore - it's your choice.

Your positive action is needed now. People, focussed together on the same positive dream is undoubtedly a most powerful energy.

Coming together

Information from website: www.globalorgasm.org

The Event

WHAT? Global Orgasm for Peace

WHO? All Men and Women, you and everyone you know.

WHERE? Everywhere in the world, but especially in countries with weapons of mass destruction.

WHEN? Solstice Day - Friday, December 22nd, at the time of your choosing, in the place of your choosing and with as much privacy as you choose.

WHY? To effect positive change in the energy field of the Earth through input of the largest possible surge of human energy a Synchronized Global Orgasm. There are two more US fleets heading for the Persian Gulf with anti-submarine equipment that can only be for use against Iran, so the time to change Earth's energy is NOW!

The Science

The Global Consciousness Project (<http://noosphere.princeton.edu>), Princeton University, runs a network of Random Event Generators (REGs) around the world, which record changes in randomness during global events. The results show that human consciousness can be measured to have a global effect on matter and energy during widely-watched events such as 9/11 and the Indian Ocean tsunami. There have also been measurable results during mass meditations and prayers.

The Zero Point Field or Quantum Field surrounds and is part of everything in the universe. It can be affected by human consciousness, as can be seen when simple observation of a subatomic particle changes the particle's state.

We hope that a huge influx of physical, mental and spiritual energy with conscious peaceful intent will not only show up on

Princeton's REGs, but will have profound positive effects that will change the violent state of the human world.

The Organisers

Donna Sheehan and Paul Reffell co-founded the anti-war organization Baring Witness www.BaringWitness.org, a worldwide collective of peace activists who are alarmed enough to spell peace publicly with their naked bodies. The Global Orgasm is a way for even more men and women to be involved in changing the way human affairs are conducted in the world.

Donna and Paul conduct



GoodTimes endorsement.

The O-sign has new meaning in the lead-up to the solstice, and it's all for world peace.

Redefining Seduction www.RedefiningSeduction.com workshops, teaching women to give themselves permission to initiate courtship and create partnership, while saving men from the damage of rejection. They have co-written the book, Redefining Seduction, and also a personality profiling system that uses physical genetic indicators of left/right brain traits, called BrainLines (www.BrainLines.com). At present they are co-producing the feature-length documentary film Baring Witness and a stage play.

The Press

Calif. Couple Calls for Orgasm for Peace

November 19, 2006, Washington Post/Associated Press (excerpt): The Global Orgasm for

Peace was conceived by Donna Sheehan, 76, and Paul Reffell, 55, whose immodest goal is for everyone in the world to have an orgasm Dec. 22 while focusing on world peace.

"The orgasm gives out an incredible feeling of peace during it and after it," Reffell said Sunday.

"Your mind is like a blank. It's like a meditative state. And mass meditations have been shown to make a change."

By promoting what they hope to be a synchronized global orgasm, they hope to get people to channel their sexual energy into something more positive.

"The dream is to have everyone in the world (take part)," Reffell said. "And if that means laying down your gun for a few minutes, then hey, all the better."

Anti-war couple conceive new way to generate peace

November 19, 2006, San Francisco Chronicle (excerpt): Living on their houseboat off the Marin County coast, anti-war activists Donna Sheehan and her partner, Paul Reffell, concocted a way for the world to communally create a lot of peaceful vibes. They want everyone to have an orgasm on the same day.

On Dec. 22, they're asking the world to contribute in their own way to the Global Orgasm for Peace. Sheehan said not to worry if you don't have a partner.

Busy multi-taskers shouldn't despair about trying to cram this global activism into their busy schedules, either, she said. Take any time during the 24-hour period at the beginning of the winter solstice to join the demonstration. Just make sure to think of peace before or after participating.

Once you've committed, there's even a secret sign to show others that you plan to take part: Flash the universal "OK" sign and wink. Or, as it has been redubbed, "The O" sign.

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