

# Traveller's Tales

by Diana Anaid

Recently I had the pleasure of attending the celebrated Australian Live Music 'Jack' Awards.

Walking the black carpet with me was Eskimo Joe, Cruel Sea, Nick Cave, my dear friend Mama Jugs and Channel 9 presenter Asha as well as many other great Aussie musos and of course my PR Matt.

Wearing an awesome designer dress and sky high heels, as well as having hours spent on my hair and makeup, I felt amazingly spoilt and loved every minute. It is a far cry from the solar powered community that I return to when I am not on tour!

At a fashion show after party later in the night (we skipped the Jack Awards after party!), the incredible skyline of Sydney's Opera House and Harbour Bridge were a perfect setting to relax and sip cocktails with Matt, Mama and



Asha before heading to my Bondi part-time home for some much needed rest (unlike my companions, I was in the middle of a national tour and had to be ready to perform the next night!). Missing my Son Stone's birthday on the 15th was definitely a downer on the night, even if I was able to fly back the following weekend for an awesome family dinner....)

This was only two weeks after I had attended the MTV's, again having the honor of walking the red carpet, this time with the likes of Pink, Silverchair, Jared Leto (who demanded that no-one be in the VIP room when he got there, everyone had to clear out just for him to walk in and get settled - wanker!), Rogue Traders and a million others. Wearing Guess designer



duds and dancing the night away with Sydney socialite (our Paris Hilton) Bessie Bardot, but I slipped away quietly after a large night previously at a Sydney Fashion Week event.

Apart from that, the most exciting thing has been setting up my new home studio with some very very cool equipment (check out the links page on my website <www.dianaanaid.com> to see what I have to say about Maton, Line6, Presonus, Event, Rode and D'Addario as well as sports brand Musashi).

I have been working on the new single as well, "Cheatin' On Me," which is recorded and ready for release as soon as we finish the film clip and remix, I'll keep you guys posted on how that is coming along, but it is probably the best song I have ever written so I cannot wait to get it out for you guys.

Rehearsing for the next band tour, drawing designs for the next lot of t-shirts, getting ForolaMusic up and running, as well as touring the live CD has seen me very busy, which is exactly how I like to be.

I'll be talking to you guys soon, all the best and don't ever change, I love you perfectly as you are, the same as you have always loved me... rock on.



# White Cockatoo are coming to Lismore

The internationally acclaimed White Cockatoo Performing Group will give one public concert in Lismore. Four days later they perform in Paris, as their compelling music theatre is highly regarded in Europe, USA and Asia.

"This is a very rare opportunity for North Coast people to experience the electrifying atmosphere of traditional Western Arnhem Land corroboree," said John Allan, director of Spirit of the Land Foundation, who are organising the concert at 7pm Wednesday 13th June at Lismore City Hall.

This is Traditional Aboriginal performance at its finest, by masters of the 'Kun-borrk' tradition. Kun-borrk are songs and dances of life, relationships, love and humour; the emotions and actions of people and 'spirits' observed in fine detail and accompanied by a special type of didjeridu called mago.

'People often think didjeridu is the focus of Aboriginal music, but traditionally the



song man is the star," Mr. Allan observed. "We are very lucky as two Song Men, two Dancers and Darryl Dikarna, the greatest living exponent of the Kun-borrk didjeridu tradition are coming to Lismore; so we are getting great singers and the best Didjeridu player."

This is compelling music and dance from one of the

oldest artistic traditions on the planet, with a repertoire that covers both ancient works and songs by living composers.

The event is supported by LightnUp, the organisers of the Lismore Lantern Parade. Jyllie Jackson of LightnUp said, "Linking with the Spirit of the Land Foundation is fantastic, and the White Cockatoo concert is a taste

of things to come. We build on this and work together to bring more of the rich traditions of Australia to the Northern Rivers."

Tickets are \$20/15, available at the door or from Caddies Coffee and Bim Bam gallery, Byron bay. All proceeds will go towards the work of the Spirit of the Land Foundation.

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# Gigging around



## Tuntable Creek Voices

Seen here performing at the opening of The Channon Local Artist Exhibition, on the verandah of tThe Channon Tavern, one of the largest choirs around.



## Jurassic Joe

Kyogle library was very fortunate to be selected to help launch the new CD by Joe Landers (aka "Jurassic Joe"), titled "Danger, danger, dinosaur!"

Joe and his "Cretaceous Crew" very generously performed at Kyogle library for free over two days in May. They entertained over 160 children, teachers and parents from Eden Creek Fairy Mount Pre-school, Kyogle Pre-school, Kyogle Early Learning Centre and Kyogle Public School K-2.

Everyone learned great dinosaur facts and had lots of dinosaur fun as we literally "did the dinosaur" while singing and dancing along to "Jurassic Joe's" great songs.



Just some bums on the street...

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# Homeopathics

by Tarang Bates

What a beautiful time of the year, the light is exquisite, especially the hour before sunset. The mountains around us take on these hues of purple, blue and pink against the vivid blue of the sky. Pecans dropping off the trees (beat the bush turkeys) and the dawning of the citrus season.



The perfect time for outside fires, the smell of the smoke and the crackling flames. We have so many fragrant woods and leaves to burn around us.....camphor, tea tree, lemon scented gum, eucalyptus of all flavors and even a cinnamon tree.

Fires to warm our homes, hearts and hands. Cooking food together. Food cooked with the energy of fire and smoke.....good for the soul – get out of the kitchen and onto the ground, pick up your kindling from under the trees around you and be mesmerized. Yeah ok I'm a fire sign! But seriously it doesn't take up a whole lot of wood to cook up a delectable, smoke infused feast.

Children love fires, try a bit of citrus peel for special effects. Some littlies are real firebugs and accidents can happen, so the Homeopathics for this month relate to burns.



**Arnica:** should be used straight away, along with immersing the burn in cold water, because there is always a certain amount of shock and swelling. The cold water can have a few drops of calendula and Hypericum tincture added to it (often called Hypercal), which will help with pain relief and infection. Any burns bigger than the palm of the hand needs urgent

medical attention. Deep burns are less painful because the nerves have been destroyed. Arnica 30c can be used every 10 min for up to six doses, the following remedies can be used at the same time or following the Arnica.

**Cantharis:** for burns that feel raw and burning, causing severe inflammation and blistering. The person could be anxious and restless. Cantharis 30c may be used every 10 min for up to six doses. The doses should then be spread out and may be used three to six times daily for the next few days.

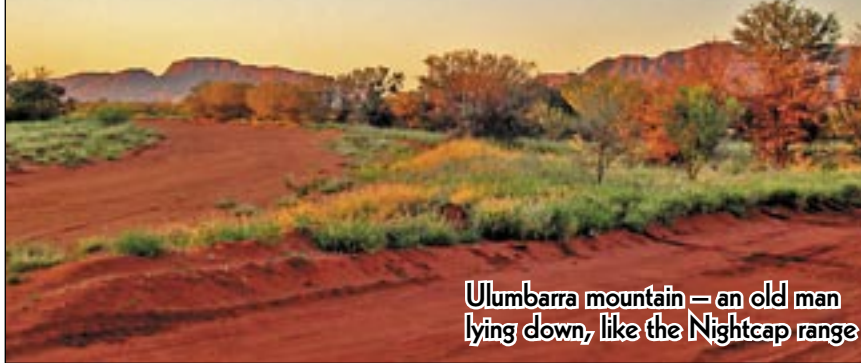
**Urtica Urens:** for burns that are stinging with redness, inflammation and swelling. Urtica Urens 30c may be used every 10 min for up to six doses. The doses should then be spread out and may be used three to six times daily for the next few days.

**Causticum:** used for burn scars that continue to be painful or that don't heal well. Causticum 30c four times daily for up to a week.

**Colloidal Silver:** applied to burns, assists with pain, healing and infection.

*Homeopathic first aid remedies available from Nimbin Homeopathics. Contact Tarang by phone (02) 6689-1452, or email tarangbates@yahoo.com.au*

# From the Living Heart of the Continent...



Ulumbarra mountain – an old man lying down, like the Nightcap range

by Megan James

The heart of this country is not dead. The land is alive and pulsing, as red and vibrant as the desert earth – and the people are too, whenever they can, although their opportunities are limited.

Living and working in remote Central Australia for the last year has been a rich and transforming experience for me. I have learnt so much about myself and my cultural heritage through witnessing the stark realities of the present-day Anangu way of life. Every day is a challenge to my every conceptual thought as I struggle with being the interface between white government and black people. It ain't easy but it can be incredibly rewarding. To spend time with the old people is a privilege and an honour. To be able to work with the people, both black and white, who see beyond the strictures of materialism is inspiring and heartening - and also essential if the strength and beauty of the survivors of invasion is to continue. There are far too few such individuals on the ground in the communities. Degradation and exploitation of the land and the people is the far more common and shameful legacy of our witless and desperate ancestors and the mindless idiocy of our exploitative culture.

I have come to see that racism is not a separate conceptual entity within our culture. Rather our culture is inherently racist, in that it is a culture which sees all natural resources, including people, as objects to be used and exploited for maximum gain. While I recognise the racism of individuals, including myself, I can see how useless it is to judge or moralise about attitudes that have been

ingrained in people since birth. What is needed is education. There is always more to learn about opening our hearts and there are no better teachers than the land and its people.

People ask me what I do out here. Well, I am the Papunya Women Centre Co-ordinator. That means I am paid to supervise the Indigenous women who run the Aged Care program, meals-on-wheels, laundry and other services to the elderly and disabled. While I am away, the Aged Care crew gets on with the job just fine without me, so I do question whether I really need to be there fulltime, although I do the reports and grant submissions because I have better written English and numeracy skills. (English is my first and only language, rather than my second or third language as it is for most people out there.) I also help get new projects happening – this includes training and community development work. So far



Collecting Yinti beans for necklaces

# Gathering at Sphinx Rock

by Binnah

A crowd of about 130 gubbas and gooris (people) were nung (quiet) while they watched and binnung (listened) in ginyela (consciousness) to Boothrum (dreaming) stories of this jagun (land) we now call home, held at Sphinx Rock café on the last Friday in May, in the beautiful gibum (moonlight). Many a deep and meaningful boothrum was reportedly had that night about totems and giants walking the land....

The film 'Eelmarni' enthralled the throng as we heard the tale and song of Wollumbin.

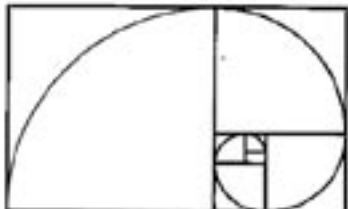
About \$360 was raised to assist the Boyd Family in funeral expenses. Thank you to Roslyn and all the rest of our beautiful extended family who came together to go deeper into our 'relation to country and each other' and who made the experience whole.

'....and the N'gurrungurra (ancestors) were happy....'

If you would like to know when the next gathering is on, send an email to: <sunbinnah@yahoo.com> or phone: 0432-502-376.

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# Climate change workshops

## Exploring the Security of Nimbin's Food Supply

by Noni Collins

My intention when writing this article was to share with the community the events and outcomes of the May Nimbin Climate Action Group meeting. Before I go further I can't help but say how happy and proud I was to be a part of such a productive and all involved process.

Our topic of last discussion was "How Secure is Nimbin's Food Supply - Now and In the Future!", an emotionally charged subject for many. To kick the night off we were graced with two guest speakers, Tony Stallone from Rainbow Wholefoods, and Hogan from Rivendell. Both speakers shared their insights regarding fields of expertise.

Discussions revolved around the lack of locally grown organic food, the reducing number of farmers on the land, the great qualities of our local resources (soil and people!), and the impact of international price competition. This set the



Last month's focus groups reporting back

scene for the group process that followed.

The result of our group process was the generation of seven focus areas. Individuals can now get involved in more specific areas of interest and still support the group's overriding intention of reducing green house gas emissions.

The specific focus areas created by the group were: Local Produce Market; Support Local Economy; Market Niches; Education; Market Research; Networking; and Passion.

Each of these were underpinned by multiple

issues and solutions, which will form the basis of the next Nimbin Climation Action Group gathering. The idea is that people who want to progress with last month's successful ideas can do so by starting to develop action plans. So whether you were involved or not in the last meeting, you are welcome to come to the June get-together and help make these ideas flourish.

The next Nimbin Climate Action Group meeting is planned for Wednesday 20th June starting at 6pm at the Djanbung Gardens Passion Cafe in Nimbin. I hope to see you there!

# Cooking with Carolyne

Spices and aromatics are the very heart of Indian cooking. Flowers, leaves, bark, seeds and bulbs (the simplest of natural ingredients) are used in endless combinations to produce an endless variety of flavours.

The Indian cook aims to create blends of spices so subtle that a completely new taste arises - something indefinable. As many as fifteen spices may be used in one dish, or there may be only one. Spices, unlike herbs, can be used together without loss of flavour.

It is best to buy your spices whole and grind them just before use. Whole spices keep longer than spice powder, which quickly lose their aroma. Keep whole spices in airtight containers in a cool dark space.

Do not buy curry powder - this is a blanket term for a blend of inferior spices and will make everything taste the same.

The next best thing to the flat bed charcoal fire used in India, are cast-iron pans or casseroles, that can be used on top of the stove or in the oven. You can improve the fit of a lid by covering the pan



with a sheet of aluminium foil, then put the lid on. Cast-iron disperses the heat better.

## Recipe of the month

### Chicken Curry With Yoghurt - Murghi Dahi

**Ingredients - Serves 4**  
 Large chicken, skinned and jointed  
 4 tblsp oil  
 2 onions, finely chopped  
 2 cloves of garlic finely chopped  
 15g ginger finely grated  
 cardamom seeds from 2 pods  
 2.5cm cinnamon stick  
 2 cloves  
 1/2 tsp fennel seeds  
 leaves of 2 sprigs of coriander  
 1 tsp paprika  
 2 tsp ground coriander  
 1/2 tsp ground cumin  
 1/2 tsp chili powder  
 1/2 tsp tumeric

125 g yoghurt  
 225 g potatoes, peeled and diced  
 225g peeled and chopped tomatoes  
 1/2 tsp salt

**Method** - Heat 3 tblsp oil in pan, add onion, garlic, ginger, cardamom seeds, cloves and fennel seeds, fry until the onion is golden.

Add paprika, ground coriander, cumin, chili powder and tumeric and continue to fry until the oil runs free from the mixture.

Drain off the oil, stir in the yoghurt and blend in a liquidizer until smooth

Fry the remaining onion in the remaining oil until golden., add the chicken and fry for five minutes.

Add the blended spice mixture, potato, tomato, 1/2 tsp salt and 850 ml boiling water and cook on low heat for about one hour until meat and vegetables are done..

Add extra salt and sprinkle over coriander leaves.

Serve on rice, with side dish of pickled cucumber and yoghurt.

*This curry and other exciting new dishes will be available at Retro, starting very soon.*

# Exfoliation from Head to Toe

by Cheryl Beasley

A major factor in achieving beautiful skin is thorough exfoliation, removing the dead skin cells.

Your skin has its own cycle of shedding dead skin cells. To help accelerate this process it is recommended to exfoliate the skin at least once a week. Using gentle dermabrasives that will rid the skin of dead skin cells gently, yet effectively, leaving the skin fresh, moisturised and clean, is as easy as washing in the shower.

The new cells that are revealed can absorb nutrients from natural skin care products easily thus maintaining the moisture balance needed for great looking, healthy skin.

Facial scrubs are gentler than body scrubs, and it is recommended you use only scrubs designed especially for the face on the face, otherwise damage may occur. Cleansing with a facial scrub weekly will give the skin a glow as new skin cells are revealed and the appearance of wrinkles are diminished. To add further benefits source scrubs that contain nourishing ingredients for skin type. Look for:

**Normal** Normal skin has no apparent signs of being oily or dry. Pimples and blemishes are uncommon and the pores are usually small and the skin smooth with a healthy, firm appearance. Spirulina and Rose Hip Oil will nourish your skin.

**Oily** Oily skin has a shine on it and tends to have enlarged pores with blackheads. There are no dry areas at all but excess oils that have dried on the skin around the nose can cause flakes to form there. Citrus essential oils and yarrow can be beneficial.

**Dry** With dry skin there are no oily areas and flaking can occur. This skin has lost some of its ability to produce natural oils and this can be due to aging or sun exposure. The pores are small but the texture can be taut and the skin might have a leathery appearance. Broken capillaries, fine wrinkles and a dull appearance suggest a dry skin type. Vitamin E and Rose Hip oil will soothe dry skin.

**Combination** As the name suggests a combination of oily, dry and normal areas can appear on this skin type. It usually has an oily T-zone down the centre of the face crossing at the forehead. Another style is an oily chin and jaw line but normal to dry skin elsewhere. This skin type is prone to pimples and blackheads. Witch hazel and Rice Extract suit combination skins.

Body scrubs come in many forms and choosing one to suit your skin type and any skin problems you might have should be considered. Many scrubs are just a mixture of cheap oil and sugar but these will only exfoliate roughly and do nothing to nourish and nurture your skin for the coming weeks. Choose a body scrub that contains ingredients that will add vitamins, minerals and moisture to your skin.

**Sugar Body Scrubs** suit all skin types as the Sugar contains Oleic acid, which gently helps dissolve dead skin cells. Alpha Hydroxy Acids are known to benefit all skin types.



Find a scrub that contains soybean oil as this oil is reputed to retard hair growth, an added advantage!

**Salt Based Scrubs** are good for those who have body pimples and oily skin. The minerals in the salt help detoxify the skin and dry up excess oils while feeding the skin with beneficial minerals. Source salt based scrubs that do not contain added oils but rather other moisturising ingredients such as Aloe Vera and Glycerine.

**Dry Skin Brushing** is another way to exfoliate the skin without adding extra oil, thus making it ideal for oily skin types. Dry skin brushing is excellent as a light, every day exfoliation.

Using a loofah in the bath or shower daily is yet another way to exfoliate the dead skin cells from the body. Using a loofah or dry skin brushing is a gentle way to remove a build up of cells but does not contain any further benefits such as the body scrubs do with the addition of vitamins and minerals.

**Foot Scrubs** will cleanse, soothe, soften, moisturise and nourish tired and aching feet. Scrubs that contain essential oils will also leave your feet fresh and deodorized. Using a foot scrub monthly can reduce any signs of infection and keep the feet healthy.

Exfoliation should be an important part of your natural beauty routine not only for youthful looking skin but also for the enormous health benefits it gives. Regular exfoliation will keep your skin smooth, supple, nourished and healthy.

Please visit us at <http://www.lanab.com.au> for further advice and a healing range of natural skin care products. LanaB is a boutique natural skin care business that produces exclusive natural skin care products freshly as ordered, ensuring their products are of the highest quality when received by customers. They offer free delivery Australia wide.



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# ASTROLOGICAL TRENDS FOR JUNE 2007

## BIRTHDAY – Gemini



by Bev Murray

These are the communicators of the zodiac. Their true calling is that of disseminators of information! You will always find a Gemini in the News room, the Classroom or on stage! Quick thinking, innovative and very determined, Gemini can be lacking in the finer points of tact and diplomacy! They don't trust their emotions but deep down they are quite soft.

**Give them:** an adventure, a new book, a travel ticket, anything technological, especially a mobile phone!!

### Gemini:

Finances are looking good for Gemini this month. Asking for the opinions of others and taking advice regarding money matters will pay off nicely! A little re-organizing of any long-term investments will reap some very nice rewards. From the 13th onwards expect creative activity to bring some pleasing results. The 27th can be poor for emotional judgement.

### Cancer:

Your intuition is even stronger than usual this month, so heed it well. Big decisions will need to be made this month, procrastinating will get you nowhere. The 21st is a particularly good day to get moving with a new project. Meeting deadlines may require some self-discipline though. The Libra Moon on the 24th makes some very romantic contacts.

### Leo:

Impulse travel is very likely sometime this month! If your gut says do it then go ahead! Leo reputations will do well this month and the general level of success at almost anything is up! A great time to ask for a raise or get on board a project you have been interested in lately. Educational areas are highlighted. Why not think about studying something new?

### Virgo:

Socially this is an excellent time for Virgo! Relaxing and enjoying life is the focus of this month so let the worry and responsibility take a break for a while! Anything speculative however is not advised this month, as dumb luck is not in your arena! Mercury retrograde will make for a muddle or two. Planning travel is great but actual travel can be fraught with delay.

### Libra:

Try to get the rest you need this month as another very busy time is on the cards! Partners could be time consuming but the effort is worthwhile! If partnerless then expect this to be a frugal month, with some romantic deception. Travel is highlighted very positively. Trying a different approach to problems can really make the difference.

### Scorpio:

A very routine month with lots of demanding jobs and obligations to keep you busy. Getting everything in your life nice and organised now though, will pay off later so embrace this! Those who work in administration or education will be favoured the most this month. Listen to those who have had the experience, you will learn a lot.

### Sagittarius:

It can be a bit of an uphill month as far getting things done goes, but the final week of June will set things running smoothly again. You are quite lucky financially in the first two weeks of the month so use this period wisely. The full moon on the 30th helps you to get things done. If contemplating a new emotional entanglement, think again!

### Capricorn:

Some of your hunches will be very helpful this month, so check them out before you discard them. If you want to make money you will have to put in the effort, gambling will not pay off! The Moon trine to Saturn on the 29th of the month helps old issues to be resolved. Romance and creativity kick in towards the end of the June.

### Aquarius:

Committees and groups are like putty in your hands this month. Uranus is busy early on so the first two weeks should be a little hectic and often very surprising. Try not plan too much to take full advantage of the opportunities that come your way. Saturn square to Uranus mid month suggest you pay extra attention to any legal details.

### Pisces:

A strong intuition can feel overwhelming this month, but if you accept what you are feeling then you will benefit! Working alone suits you well, but groups can cause problems. This can be a very creative time but you need to knuckle down to make the most of it! Partners have high expectations, try not to disappoint them if you want a peaceful life!

### Aries:

Your confidence levels are great this month, but don't let this cause you to take unnecessary risks! Romance is highlighted and it can turn out to be quite a serious area all through June and July! It's a generally fortunate month however, with a lucky event or two! Longer-term investments are expected to reap sound rewards now.

### Taurus:

Hunches relating to personal life areas are very possibly accurate! Listen well. Money management will be easy in June and saving will be easier than usual. Take a little more time than usual when making important decisions because some information may not be totally accurate. The Moon square to Venus on the 12th will be uneasy for you. Try to be co-operative.

Email Bev: [Insightbevmurray@yahoo.com](mailto:Insightbevmurray@yahoo.com)

# Samheim Eve - ceremony of Ancestral wisdoms



by Lynne Oldfield

A good night was had holding the Ceremony of Ancestral Wisdoms at Djanbung Gardens Nimbin.

We held a ceremony of the humble arrival of the Celtic people asking to be accepted and educated by Indigenous Australians as to the ways of the culture and the land.

Robyn Francis called on our Celtic ancestors to come

forth with their wisdom and guidance as we enter a domain of sacred landscape and wisdom held by Indigenous people.

Burri Jerome (pictured) welcomed us and told many Dreamtime stories. Robyn Francis and Pagan Love Cult played music into the night.

A documentary was made of the ceremony, which will be played at Lismore TAFE on 20th June.

### The hippies were right

"Mark Morford, in his splendid column in the San Francisco Chronicle, *Why the Hippies were Right* asks from where comes "all this hot enthusiasm for healing the planet" and "eating wholefoods and avoiding chemicals and working with nature and developing the self? Came from the hippies. Alternative health? Hippies. Green cotton? Hippies.

"Reclaimed wood? Recycling? Humane treatment of animals? Medical pot? Alternative energy? Natural childbirth? Non-GMA seeds? It came from the granola types (who, of course, absorbed much of it from ancient cultures), from the alternative worldviews, from the underground and the sidelines and from far off the goddamn grid and it's about time the media, the politicians, the culture as a whole sent out a big, wet, hemp-covered apology."

Not a chance Mark, not in Australia, where the Government still hasn't apologised to the aboriginals for colonising their land in 1788 and later acquiring their children by force.

Anyway, the hippies have no need of an apology, as the belated adoption of their ideas is sufficient reward."

From: *The Rise, Fall & Rise of Flower Power* by Richard Neville, in [www.counterpunch.org](http://www.counterpunch.org) May 8, 2007

# Commonsense Human Values

Second in a series by Laurie Stubbs

Many of our human values are shared with animals.

We want children; so do whales. We love our kids: so do lions. We take care to stay safe, so do foxes. A great deal of our behaviour is common to other mammals. – and therefore we know we share the values driving those actions. Each day we eat, work -- or provide for ourselves,-- play, care for our family, sleep and so on. All common with animals; even the "flight/fight" reaction is shared.

Humans have supported much of this common behaviour by thinking up verbalised 'values'. The value itself is a "built in" to our genetic heritage. Our genes create a great deal of the behaviour that makes up our lives. But the values not shared with the animal world -- the truly "human" values of sympathy, compassion and so on – these are the ones that make us so radically different.

Now, this raises the question:- How do we know where hard wired values stop, and optional ones begin? The answer? We don't! The cut off point is a very grey area. Hard fact is noticeable by its absence!

There's lots of accessible science on this. A really good read is Robert Wright's "The Moral Animal". He says:

"The more closely the Darwinian anthropologists look at the world's peoples the more they are struck by the dense and intricate web of human nature by which all are bound. And the more they see how the web was woven."

And he goes on, (They) "see the world's undeniably diverse cultures as products of a single human nature responding to widely

varying circumstances; evolutionary theory reveals previously invisible links between the circumstances and the cultures"

Now that's all very well, but with so much programmed by the genes -- how come whatever you want to do – good or bad, there's a value you can quote to support it?

Because choice is also genetically built in.

The best known is the "flight or fight" syndrome. The decision to stay and fight, or get the hell out of there is based in bodily responses and emotions which use very little human intelligence. Yet the choice is quite definitely open, even if for a very brief time..

And it's the same with many human actions. Love and hate are close cousins, so are sympathy and revulsion, compassion and brutality. Choice is steered by the cultures we grow up in and by circumstances. Some civilisations seem brutal where others seem benign. Both see themselves as doing the commonsense thing.

So the basic position is that if a particular behaviour is typical of the human species then it probably has a genetic origin: the behaviour is rooted in the natural selection process. We have a whole raft of such hard-wired values that come from human genes. How far these values go is important; because, where they finish is where another set of human options operates about human values.

That's where another kind of choice begins, where human intelligence and reasoning can set the scene. Plus, there's an option for humankind, with its capacity for control, to try overriding the hard-wired values.

Next article we'll look more closely at how this works out in our societies.

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