



Second Life - second chance

by Rob Harle

Didn't quite get the genes you would have liked at birth? Time and the elements battered your appearance a bit too much? Don't worry, this can all be changed with the click of a mouse button.

Second Life (SL) www.seconddlfe.com is a virtual cyber world, created by Linden Laboratories, which is very similar to our own so-called real life (RL) world. You may buy or rent land, build buildings, create artworks, animals, speedboats and clothes or dance the night away at hippy-happenings or discos. Everything we do in RL has its own virtual counterpart in SL. The realism, diversity and "weirdness" of SL is astonishing.

Don't rush away to your computer full of enthusiasm before finishing this article, a few introductory tips will help you get started in SL. Your computer needs a fair amount of "grunt", especially in the graphic/video card department. A minimum of 128 megabytes on the graphics card is essential. One gigabyte of system memory (RAM) is required and broadband, the faster the better, is also essential.

If your computer meets these requirements you also need to "tweak" it, so it is operating as fast as possible. Things like removing cookies and temporary files, defragmentation as required, setting RAM and Cache allocations correctly, and running a minimum of background programs when on SL will enhance your virtual life significantly.

You may register on SL with a basic account for free and there are no other charges to participate in SL activities. You have to upgrade your account to premium if you wish to own land. If you wanted to buy designer clothes for example, you can exchange RL dollars for Linden dollars through the Lindex Exchange, this will be credited to your account and you can then shop-till-you-drop! (\$10USD = \$2,000L) Did you really think there would not be stock brokers and money merchants?

Your presence in SL is through an AVATAR. You select this basic figure when registering, you may then change your appearance in all respects - hair, height, eye-shadow, shoes and gender, as you like. At the time of registering you download the free software to run the SL simulation on your computer. You also have to choose a SL name for your avatar (alter ego?) Avatar is a word to remember, as in the next few years many RL

day to day activities like banking, shopping and getting information will make use of the avatar concept.

SL is not a fancy computer game, though it does resemble sophisticated games in some respects. It is totally interactive and you choose your own destiny - well at least that of your avatar's. There are astrology groups and clairvoyants, wonder how that works when you decide your own destiny?

Individuals have become RL millionaires from conducting businesses in SL! The Australian ABC has an island in SL, a couple of bona fide universities are establishing campuses on SL so they can teach courses, virtually and interactively. A friend quipped over dinner last night that perhaps we should lobby Lismore City Council to become the first virtual local government organisation on SL?

There is a fairly steep learning curve in becoming really competent in SL but for those who are a bit jaded with RL, hate traffic jams, and the tedium of wet seasons the learning will be worthwhile. The skills learnt carry over into day-to-day RL computer operating, and the more we learn the less chance of becoming senile or suffering dementia as we get older.

I've dreamed of and investigated the possibilities of teleportation for many years, and bingo, this is the standard way of moving from place to place in SL. Just stand on the teleporting pad, click, and whoosh you are instantly teleported to your new location - I guarantee, "it's the only way to travel. Da, da, da, da". (Moody Blues)

I think Nimbin should establish its own village on SL. Like blogs, SL has the potential to make others aware of important issues, these can be discussed by all avatars present whilst seated comfortably by the seaside or rainforest, there's lots of rainforests in SL. I realise Nimbin is as close as you can get to being a RL virtual village but I still think we should have a virtual presence in real cyberspace.

Communication between avatars is done by typing at the keyboard, the text appears in a dialogue section on the screen, or by using a microphone headset and real voice communication. As with much computer/email/texting, short hand and jargon is used regularly, a few examples: "lol" means laughing out loud; "afk" means away from keyboard; "RU" means are you?

Have fun CUL8A

In Utherverse, darling kiss me

by Warwick Fry

Utherverse is a roleplaying, sexually-oriented internet site, www.utherverse.com, contested by a range of players in an environment patterned on the famous red light district of Amsterdam.

One type of players, who can be seen coming, and are usually unwelcomed, are naive young males trying to hit on people whose avatars they genuinely and naively believe are lingerie-wearing females.

Another group, genuine roleplayers, professional sex workers, and computer nerds, are either having fun, trying to make money, or exploring the possibilities of 3D sex simulation with artificial intelligence.

Then there is the grouping of those with similar interests and proclivities, into 'Clans' or 'Families', 'clubs' and cliques. Finally there is a small but healthy minority of people who seem to be able to happily enjoy socialising in



the midst of the mental and libidinous mayhem described above, remaining above or beneath it all ... sound familiar?

It's an interesting tension between groups of unlikely players. As it occurs in internet interactions, there are processes of mutual discovery of eccentricities: poets, perverts and primal activists, philosophers and dabblers, explorers and experimenters, in new and ever-surprising contexts.

Each player is given his or her own blogsite, access to a forum, and an internal mail network to one's personally selected and controlled 'friend' list. One of the more common comments made on the internal personal blog

sites are written by women, trying to explain, as gently as they can, that male avatars walking up to a complete stranger and saying 'wanna **** ?' will not, in most cases, get a receptive response. In fact, some young women (who do actually 'wanna ****', albeit virtually) have even posted blogs explaining to the sexually retarded what they would like to hear if the young Lotharios seriously want to 'score'.

And then you get the cross cultural posts ... the site includes 'dimensions' that include various nationalities, (there are Spanish, French Greek and even Turkish 'dimensions'). although the 'English, anything goes' dimension hegemonises the game (with amateur streaming audio DJ's hiring out a nightclub/disco for special events on particular nights), it gets interesting.

I guess it could be seen as a kind of primal grass-roots sex education in an authoritarian-free skateboard park.

Nimbin Physical Activity Centre					
Cecil St (Showground Hall)					
TERM 3 2008					
Starts July 21					
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6.15am		Cass Jefferys Discover Body & Mind 6.15-7.15am	Sue Boardman Gentle Exercise (Using hand weights) 9-10am July 30 - Oct 1		Cass Jefferys Discover Body & Mind/Circuit Combo 6.15-7.15am
9am		Sue Boardman Tai Chi for Health: For those who have completed beginners 9-10am July 29 - Sept 30			
9.30	Cass Jefferys Discover Body Circuit 9.30-10.30am				Cass Jefferys Discover Cardio & Endurance 9.30-10.30am
10.15am		Sue Boardman Tai Chi for Health: Beginners 10.15-11.15am July 29 - Sept 30			
10.30am			Cass Jefferys Discover Body Blitz 10.30-11.30am		
1.30pm				Cass Jefferys Discover Body & Mind 1.30-2.30pm	
2pm			Rocky Nimbin Central School Class 2-3pm		
4pm		Rocky Girls Fitness Training 4-5pm Please ring Rocky for more information	Daniel Keszler Kids Kung Fu 4-5pm		Rocky Girls Fitness Training 4-5pm Please ring Rocky for more information
5pm		Rocky Open Adult Training 5-7pm Please ring Rocky for more information		Daniel Keszler Taiji Chen Style 5.15-6.15pm	Rocky Open Adult Training 5-7pm Please ring Rocky for more information
5.30pm	Cass Jefferys Discover Body Blitz 5.30-6.30pm		Cass Jefferys Discover Body & Mind/Circuit Combo 5.30-6.30pm		
6pm				Daniel Keszler Integral Martial Arts 6.30-7.30pm	

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Nimbin Bushwalkers curse the bl**dy rain

by Len Martin and Michael Smith

Would you believe three out of three successive bush walks b*ggered in one way or t'other by rain. The only good thing - it makes July programming dead easy - we just schedule the same three walks again.

For our final May walk, we were graced with steady rain for several days beforehand, and a day-before forecast of much more to come. Judy Hales was leader and since she had no phone we listed ours, and checked with her the day before, that, if there was much rain in the morning, the walk would be off. And was it raining that morn - yes it was. A couple of phone-callers - "yes, the walk is off" - but into Nimbin car-park just in case.... and there was a miserably damp-looking Gerard (he of the Stinson walk). Then, out of the mists looms our intrepid vice president Michael Smith (another Stinsonite), flaunting his shiny new, totally water-proof boots, coat, hat, leggings - you name it, he had it - raring to go - the b*gger will walk in any weather.

Next minute he's joined by another lunatic Stinsonite, Hilary, who will walk anywhere in any weather. Judy appeared and M & H proceeded to put the hard word on her. Suffice to say, she was persuaded and, having collected her wet-weather gear - a plastic bag - off they went. Gerard, like me, chickened out. The following description is from Michael Smith - and I'm really pleased that his gear wasn't leech-proof.

The club planned to walk from Mount Nardi to Tuntable Creek on the last day of Autumn. A night of rain, and the promise of more to come, resulted in just three hardy, cheerful, walkers fronting at the start. It was both windy and raining on top of the mountain. Once under the canopy, in the rain forest, it was just wet, the rain failing to hit the ground. The birds were quiet and the animals absent, as Judy, Hillary and Michael presented their offerings of warm blood to the abundant leeches. The track was down hill, dropping six hundred metres over a distance of six kilometres, gradual enough to barely feel the grade. We were in the forest for five hours, plenty of time for the leeches to turn Judy's pedile extremities (thanks Fats Waller) into rivers of blood. A few hours into the walk the sun came out and stayed, mocking the timid who were still cringing under their doonas at home. We landed safely near the Co-ordination Co-operative and marvelled at the chaos of abodes and scary driveways.

Our June walk to Glennies Chair was abandoned because rain had made the access road impassable. But the day itself was gorgeous - clear blue skies, cool light breeze. So leader Don Durrant led 15 of us to Koreelah Gorge, way over beyond Woodenbong - a long, sometimes bumpy drive - but oh what a beautiful bit of country we live in -



fabulous views all the way, including Mount Lindsay and Glennies Chair. There is a beautiful camping area at the Gorge and we plan a camp there later this year.

The walk starts with small falls at the north end of the gorge, then a rocky descent of 4-5 m into the gorge proper,

Walks Program for July

Saturday July 12th

Glennies Chair

(near Mt Lindsay)

Grade 3, 3 hr return, beautiful views, some steep grades along the border fence; walk from locked gate at border fence on Old Mt Lindsay Highway (may need 4WDs). **Leader** Don Durrant (6633-3138, at night). **Meet** Nimbin car park 8am, or leader at Kyogle park on Summerland Way, 1¼hr drive Bring food for picnic and water. Wet weather beforehand may make this walk inaccessible, an alternative will be offered.

Wednesday July 16th

Brummies Lookout

Grade 3, 30 minutes return. Moderately steep rocky walk to lookout, 600m above sea level. Spectacular views of Mt Warning, only 4km away, unforgettable place. Magic flora. **Leader** Len Martin, 6689-0254. **Meet** 9am Nimbin car park, then drive in convoy about ¾hr along dirt roads (Cadell Rd past Mebbin camping area,) to start of walk; 4WD or good clearance adventurous vehicles needed for final section to Brummies - will not go it if roads are wet, but will do another walk in the area Bring food for picnic amd water.

Sunday July 27th

Mt Nardi - Wallace Road

Grade 3, 4-5 hours downhill from Mt. Nardi, via Mt Matheson, largely on made tracks and shaded. **Leader** Judy Hales 6689-0254 **Meet** 9am Nimbin car park to organise car shuttle to provide transport at walk finish. Bring food for picnic and water.

which here has a broad saucer shaped floor and spectacular western vertical wall of columnar basalt.

Alas, shortly after the descent, while crossing a shallow flow of water, Kay slipped on wet rocks and hurt her knee. Nevertheless she continued south down the floor of the gorge to a further set of falls and pools. Here we had to ascend a broken, rocky western slope, with wonderful views up and down the gorge. Kay made it to the top, but here decided to return to the cars, via paddocks beside the gorge.

We continued slowly south - slowly because there were so many ground orchids (particularly Green Hoods). Leader Don, an orchid expert, said that he saw 15 different species on the walk. With time going on, I returned to keep Kay company, enjoying wonderful views of Mount Wilson and Acacia Plateau. The others continued south, scrambled to the gorge bottom for lunch then climbing the east wall for the return. Altogether a beaut day - even for Kay and me.

Last year, members of Nimbin Bushwalking and Garden Clubs enjoyed a week camping on Moreton Island. We a proposing a similar self-catering camp August 31st - September 5th or 6th. Cost per head (shared vehicle, ferry, national parks, camp fees) will be of the order of \$190 (\$50 deposit). Expressions of interest to 6689-0254 or pteropus42@smartchat.net.au. See also Moreton Island Trip at www.geocities.com/nimbinbushwalkers

Crossword Solution

See page 21.



Garden Club members enjoying the tropical ambience of Denise Braidwood's garden at Koonorigan. Photos by Len Martin

by Gil Schilling

The June meeting of the Nimbin garden club was held at Denise Braidwood's Koonorigan garden.

Denise's garden features large plantings of bromeliads, day lilies, some unusual tropical shrubs and trees, and is complemented by numerous palms. Pathways decorated with Denise's own mosaics, a water feature and tasteful ornamentation lend this garden a particularly tropical ambience, and made for a most enjoyable afternoon. It was especially good to see many new members present on the day.

The next meeting, the Club's Annual General Meeting (AGM), will be held at Ossie Osborne's garden in Falls Rd Nimbin at 2pm on Saturday 19th July 2008. The major business of the meeting will be to farewell outgoing committee members and to elect new office-bearers.

However, as Ossie's is one of the club's best maintained show gardens it is certainly worth a visit in its own right. A guest speaker is also scheduled for the meeting. Members are reminded that 2008 subscriptions are now due and should be paid before the AGM.

If you think you would like to join us or find out more, why not contact either Gil (66890581) or Caroline (66891945).



Leaving Lismore through to Murwillumbah

Normal Depart Times			School Holiday Times		
8:00	2:35	3:20	Lismore Transit	8:00	2:35
8:10	2:45	4:00	Goolmangar	8:10	2:45
8:20	3:00	4:15	Coffee Camp	8:20	2:55
8:45	3:20	4:30	Nimbin Ave	8:35	3:10
9:30	3:30		Nimbin depart	9:00	3:30
9:40	3:40		Blue Knob	9:10	3:40
9:50	3:55		Twin Bridges	9:15	3:45
9:53	4:00		Mt Burrell	9:20	3:50
10:10	4:20		Uki	9:40	4:10
10:15	4:25		Mt Warning turn	9:45	4:15
10:30	4:40		Murwillumbah	10:00	4:25

Leaving Murwillumbah through to Lismore

Normal Depart Times			School Holiday Times		
	7:10	1:50	Murwillumbah	7:30	2:15
	7:20	2:03	Mt Warning turn	7:42	2:28
	7:30	2:08	Uki	7:55	2:33
	7:55	2:30	Mt Burrell	8:10	2:55
	8:00	2:35	Twin Bridges	8:20	3:00
	8:32	2:40	Blue Knob	8:30	3:05
	8:45	2:50	Nimbin arrive	8:40	3:15
7:50	9:00	3:30	Nimbin depart	9:00	3:30
8:05	9:10	3:45	Coffee Camp	9:10	3:40
8:15	9:20	3:55	Goolmangar	9:20	3:50
8:50	9:35	4:10	Lismore Transit	9:35	4:00
8:55	9:40	4:15	Lismore Depot		

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Nimbin girls gee-d up over gymkhanas

Over the past four years a group of up to ten girls from the Nimbin Pony Club have been competing on the NSW Zone gymkhana circuit. This takes a lot of dedicated work and commitment from the parents and the riders.

Most gymkhanas are held over a weekend, with events ranging from showjumping, dressage, hack and rider, sporting and sometimes camp drafting. These events can attract up to 200 riders from all over NSW, so the competition is high, especially in the teen age-groups.

Although the club has come from humble beginnings, the girls are out there placing in all events and winning ribbons.

The club has been running for many years now, and although it started out with only a few members, over the past four years a strong committee has been working hard to lift the profile of the club.

The club committee has invested a lot of time and energy into the whole education, riding ability and presentation of the girls, especially on the gymkhana circuit. With new uniforms, saddle blankets and club flag, the Nimbin Pony Club holds its own amongst some of the bigger clubs.

The Nimbin club has competed at regular annual gymkhanas at Casino, Kyogle, Murwillumbah, Alstonville, Bangalow, Woodburn, Tweed Valley, Channon, Dunoon and Cabarita, then later in the year, at the rural shows.

Nimbin Pony Club meets regularly on a Sunday about once a month where the rider and horse are schooled by qualified instructors in all aspects of riding, horse care and management.

The club is run by a handful of dedicated parents and relies on the generosity of the local community for support and fund raising.

It's a wonderful, healthy interest teaching children responsibility, confidence and team spirit from as young as five years old.

The club welcomes any new members. Contact Laurelli Anderson 0447-891-119.



Standard-bearer
Nakita Anderson



Elizabeth Chalk on Bess



Amy Longmuir
with Lala



Kathleen Longmuir
on Zac



Nakita Anderson
on Wilma



Elizabeth Chalk
on Woody



Kathleen Longmuir



Jasmine Chalk
on Silver


Photos by Kathleen and Wendy Longmuir

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After hours contact:
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66 Cullen St.
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HIDDEN SANCTUARY \$335,000



Set at the end of a lovely country road is 8.8 acres of private property. A balance of tall elegant gums and fertile soil makes this property ideal for orchards and gardens. This home is open plan and beautifully positioned to take in the expansive views of the National Park. This property has water easement to Hanging Rock Creek and is surrounded by an abundance of wildlife.

POTTERS PARADISE \$299,000



If you are looking for village life then this could be for you. An interesting traditional three b/room timber home set on 3.5 acres central to Cawongla Village.

The home is currently being renovated and has lots of charm. There is an approved workshop for pottery which is large and workable. This property has all the convenience of village living but has a little bit of land for pony.

HARD WOK CAFÉ \$145,000




Zen out in this freshly painted and tastefully decorated Thai cafe. HUGE indoor all weather seating area with beautiful mountain views. Prominent corner location at the top of town, large undercover alfresco eating area in the front, bringing tourists right to your front door. Loads of off street parking ensures patrons are able to enjoy the sights and sounds of the unique Nimbin street culture. Cafe boasts modern kitchen, long list of equipment and a long lease with first option of renewal. Seats 45.

EAGLE HEIGHTS \$410,000



Beautiful large fig trees are a feature of this lovely property. Set on 10 acres of rich red soil with fantastic northerly aspect. The home is a 1920's Australian cottage with loads of character. The property is set high on a plateau in a frost free area. Watered by creeks and tanks you can grow all the fruit trees you want. Great little farmlet with lots of sheds and stables in picturesque area.

CHEAP BLOCK \$130,000



One of Nimbin's cheapest blocks. Right in the middle of Nimbin is this 1580m2 building block. Good soil and a neat mix of trees make this a very attractive buy.

ECO- FRIENDLY HOME \$375,000



This unique two storey timber and sandstone home is located in a quiet Street behind the Nimbin township. The 3 bedrooms located on the top floor with a lounge & balcony to enjoy the morning sun, leaving the downstairs area for entertaining with an open plan kitchen and living area. The sandstone is thermal efficient giving you even temperatures all year round. This house is designed to be eco-friendly with a dual 240 & 12 voltage system; slow combustion stove providing back-up to the solar hot water system and much more. Rainforest gardens surround the house lending it extra privacy.