

# LOOK TO THE STARS

YOUR MONTHLY REVIEW OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS

BY BEV MURRAY

**F**ebruary is a month of experimentation, when we are challenged to get out beyond the known and proverbial and explore further than the comfort zone! This is the start of a cycle of new standards, new images, new values, and new icons both on the world stage and in our personal lives. In the second week of February, Saturn, Pluto and Neptune, along with the Sun will trigger some serious energy that fully resolves in March. These bring about unexpected change and with this combination the change often has to do with elements from the past. Venus will transit Aries during February too, boosting short term assurances for the car industry, and suggesting that oil prices will rise again somewhat. The influence of the lunar eclipse on February 9 will probably give some relief to the financial situation overall though, especially in the domestic sector. Individuals are encouraged to become involved with community strategies and cooperatives in order to sustain each other locally.

*Quote of the month: A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit. – Greek Proverb*



## Aries

February begins on a pleasant note for you guys. You are feeling more comfortable with yourself and receiving more social invitations too. Romance, flirtations and joint projects are all on the cards as the month unfolds. After the 18th when the sun moves into Pisces you can experience more opportunity to work behind the scenes.

## Taurus

This month the focus is on career and work. Watch out for the 5th-7th as Saturn is not too happy with you and arguments can ensue! Other issues could be supporting a friend through a crisis of sorts. The latter half of the month is full of fun social invitations so make the most of these.

## Gemini

A friendship could become more important to you this month. Travel or its planning is still on the agenda. The 5th and 6th are hard days for you with some conflict and financial issues to deal with. The final week of the month gives you a chance to redo something.

## Cancer

The emphasis is on financial considerations throughout February. Be very careful of any fiscal decisions you make this month and double check all the facts and figures. The 14th and 18th offer some nice romantic moments. There is also another opportunity for some travel.

## Leo

Travel and communication with distant friends and relatives are definitely on the cards for you guys this month. Finding a compromise with a partner will be difficult for you though, especially around the middle of the month. Try to listen to what others are saying.

## Virgo

Romance and intimate relationships are highlighted all month but especially in the first two weeks of February. Sport, physical activity and other forms of exercise are rewarding this month. Completing and finishing up old projects is likely in the final week of the month.

## Libra

It's a happier month than you have had in some time and the emphasis is on enjoyment with close family! Mid month romance is highlighted and this will be very special for you. As the month draws to a close you are back focusing on work and career. Best days are 1-3 and 14-16th.

## Scorpio

Do it yourself home projects are the focus as the month begins. It can be a slow moving month, but you are sure to be supportive of a friend, and involved with a creative project or two if nothing else! The end of the month brings a new revelation and some ideas for the future.

## Sagittarius

This is a good month for activities involving children and family in general. The 5th and 6th could however be fraught with friction so take a philosophical view and avoid getting involved! The latter part of February is all about old jobs that need to be completed and household chores.

## Capricorn

Venus in Aries from the 2nd encourages romance and lighthearted fun with family. There are many temptations to overspend this month so be prepared to think things through before you spend up big. New relationships are going to prove rewarding for you. Prepare to redo some work on the 1st March.

## Aquarius

This is the beginning of pleasant and socially active cycle for Aquarians. Good conversations and good entertainment are also on the cards. Something you have forgotten about will revisit you this month and need some attention. Be prepared to deal with this in the final week.

## Pisces

Sharing time with loved ones is on your mind this month. Old friends return and new and unusual individuals become more important in your life. The 18th heralds an active and highly energized period for you where you feel more motivated and ambitious than usual.

# Astrology and the History of Human Consciousness

by Tina Mews

**S**ince the 60s many of us have spoken, heard or read about the dawning 'Age of Aquarius'. Astrologically and astronomically speaking, our current Piscean Age is soon to be replaced by Aquarius as the zodiacal sign that houses the Sun during the spring equinox of the northern hemisphere. Each astrological age lasts about 2160 years and brings to earth a new impulse, the birth of new archetypes and a different stage in consciousness development.

The turning of the Cosmic wheel and the study of the cycle of the Great Ages known as the 'Precession of the Equinoxes' has fascinated civilizations and cultures many thousands of years ago. In Neolithic times stone age people watched the sky and the movement of the stars for agricultural purposes, essential for the survival of their families and tribes.

The Sumerians began their time counting in the age of Taurus, which began about 4400 BC and recorded in their astronomical lists the previous precessional shifts to Gemini, about 6500 BC, Cancer circa 8700 BC and Leo about 10,900 BC. Events on Earth were related to the precessional wheel. For example, the lion-like Sphinx in Egypt is believed to be built in the age of Leo, facing east at the Spring Equinox about 13,000 years ago.

The epoch of the Great Mother worship is associated with the Age of Cancer, when people made their 'home' on Earth and started to gather in protected settlements. Nature was in the first stage of domestication. Life was experienced to flow with the changes of the seasons, waxing and waning like the phases of the moon. People were embedded in the universality of tribal consciousness.

The periodicity of all life-processes were seen as being controlled by the Great Goddess and the moon as the fertility providers. Life was perceived as cyclic, contained in and sustained by the will of nature and instinctual forces, the eternal round of birth, death and renewal of life. Feeling was not yet separated from thinking.

In the next epoch, the Age of Gemini, the

earliest development of the discerning mind began. Written or drawn language started to emerge. According to esoteric teachings people's senses opened to perceive the outside world. Individualized desire began to manifest. The fear of the cosmos as being chaotic was born. Thus the earliest development of the rational mind or frontal lobe growth brings a new level of experience to humankind.

Existence was perceived as split in two. The ancient Sumerian myth of the solar hero Gilgamesh and his mortal friend Enkidu describes the ambivalence between life and death, light and darkness, the earliest reflection on human mortality.

The epoch to follow was the Age of Taurus, which is partly coinciding with the Indian Kali Yuga and the Age of Darkness. The simple farming villages of the Cancerian Age had been transformed into the sophisticated civilizations of Egypt, Sumer, the Indus valley, the Minoan civilization in Crete and Stonehenge was being built in England.

The fertile bull (Taurus) was imagined as the consort of the Great Goddess, the male principle necessary for the cycle of birth and growth to continue. However, eventually the bull became associated with kinship and the building of power. The pharaoh was perceived as the personification of the Sun God. Consciousness shifted from instinctual knowing based on collective cyclic experiences of natural life-processes to the formation of mythological images and creation stories.

Besides conducting fertility rites for agricultural purposes, Egyptian culture was greatly occupied with the afterlife and death. Powerful priest-kings were overseeing the many religious ceremonies and became the mediators between the spirit world and the world of matter. In the later phases theological systems were developed which replaced most forms of nature religion.

Monotheism, an important concept in religious thought was briefly introduced by Echnaton around 1500 BC but was highly unpopular and soon banned by the priesthood.

With Echnaton we already

have entered the Age of Aries which dates back to 2200 BC and ends about 1 AD. The symbolic shifted from the bull to the ram, implying the development of the head, the brain and the dawn of rationality. While the bull was symbolizing fertility, communal wealth and abundance, the ram is standing for the pioneering spirit of the individual, idealism, personal courage and training of the will force which can be used either way to create or to destroy. It required the development of the ability to make value judgements based on ethical consideration, which found expression in the work of the Greek thinkers and philosophers.

We finally have reached the mental phase in human development, during which the picture consciousness with its mythological images was replaced by abstract terms. The Greek idealism of Pythagoras, Socrates and Plato maintained that the material world had formed out of the spiritual ideas, that ideas were more real than their physical manifestations. However, already Aristotle's work was about rationalizing and measuring physical processes and understanding physical laws. Matter and spirit were now seen as separate, and thinking became separate from feeling.

Materialism was developing as the leading philosophy. The heroic dragon slayer (ego consciousness) had won his battle over instinctual forces (tribal consciousness), asserting his will over nature.

"Divide and rule" was the slogan of the Roman Emperors, the highly materialistic orientated God-kings. Yesterday's myth became rationalized and codified into historical facts. Institutionalised moral codes and dogma were replacing intuition and demanded strict obedience with clear exclusion and brutal persecution of those who were regarded as enemies or inferiors.

Near the end of the Age of Aries life had become worthless and was turned into a bloodbath through ongoing wars and rivalries as well as the countless killings in the many Roman arenas. Humankind was waiting for a new impulse.

• Continued next month.

Bev can be contacted on 0401-800-210 or through [astralinsights.blogspot.com](http://astralinsights.blogspot.com) and [fffemale.blogspot.com](http://fffemale.blogspot.com) or at the Well Being Centre, Yamba.

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# Commonsense human values

Part 22 in a series  
by Laurie Stubbs



This is the third group of values based on the principle Life Develops Itself (LDI). Parts 19 and 20 looked at our relation to life and planet. Then in Part 21 we looked at ourselves, and values that steer how we live as individuals. Now we extend LDI based values to the family, then to groups.

## Family and Groups

In any choice of possible actions think first of the group, then family, then of your neighbours and only then of yourself. "Treat others as you would have them treat you"—does flow on to this statement if taken far enough. More and more people in the same space produces increasing interdependence. Up till now there has been enough unused space and world resources so that an individual could do what s/he wanted without an immediate problems for others. Not any more.. Think of a big city; sewerage, smog, the smoker's habit, and many more, -- all limit other's freedoms.

- Use compassion, sympathy, and understanding, not anger, brutality, or violence.

This goes along with the previous value, but spells out the acceptable. Its aim is to use specifically human behaviours as opposed to those we have in common with animals. In the same way as the "Treat others --" caveat, this is a permanent choice between natural selections ways and relates directly to the LDI principle.

Present systems of values produce massive frustrations. Erich Fromm's "Sane Society" points up failures of modern society to meet the needs of individuals. Such failures lead to emotional frustration. Because new values will take time to become generally accepted, and because there will be a residue of angry reactions (knee jerk) which will always be present, safe means of discharging the angst must be sought..

Repression isn't OK. Safe routes for expression are needed. We must turn to, and look beyond the methods of the personal development scene. Because interactions of all the values in this sample set will ease many of the common frustrations, and so reduce the sense of alienation felt by many members of western communities, destructive emotions and knee jerk reactions will be less common. Frustration is a component in many cases of angry, brutal or violent actions. Families are stressed by meeting 'economic bottom lines', and 'consumer' driven demands; stressed again from the threat of annihilation, or massive disease. I have no delusion that all will be peace and joy after these values have been fully implemented for several generations, but the comparative improvement will be very great.

- Be honest in all your dealings with other people and the community.
- Be satisfied with the goods and chattels which you get by your own, or your family's work.
- Share food and possessions according to need.

Greed is normal: so is altruistic sharing. Both are included in natural selections armoury of qualities that equip (or hinder) a normal human being. Again, a permanent choice is made for the cooperative approach. History has shown that greed is self defeating. Owning vast quantities of goods or money is evidence of a skewed outlook. Accumulating personal wealth or power shows a failure of honesty, both personal and interpersonal. Rich people may be simply insecure, have no trust in life, be unable to face the future as a person. The answers rich people find as they die must be less satisfying than those found by others whose lives have been more complete.

- All authority at any level comes from and is given by you and your peers.

An ancient piece of wisdom suggests "whoever would be leader must become the servant of the people". All kinds of government are about people: hence whatever systems we use now, or are possible in the future, all get authority from the people. An individual wants something done at a level of many individuals and therefore gives enough power so that it can be done. The other side is the action taker is accountable to the individuals. Delegation and accountability are the means to make governance work. Ultimately responsibility for decisions in a person's life rests with themselves. This is a reflection the LDI principle. Life makes changes in organisms, and accepts the success or failure of the change. Humans face the same cycle.

- Copulation is for reproduction and pleasure, but individuals control it so that children conceived are loved and wanted.

Humanity now has the means to control conception, so a value like this must re-establish the basic human prerequisites. Life's reproductive urge responds to life's need; not to people's need. After disasters like earthquakes, cyclones, volcanoes, in which many are killed, there is anecdotal evidence of couples found copulating without understanding quite why they do so.

Ironically, what they do is of the first importance. They are replacing the dead. The comfort they find in one another could well be a reaction of natural selection programmed through their grief and terror -- it starts the process of replacing those killed.

At the other end of the scale, if a race or species reproduces beyond the capacity of the environment, then aggressive and homosexual behaviours begin -- as has been shown with rat colonies. These mechanisms reduce numbers.

Though humanity could be an exception in having a permanently receptive female, there are cycles in

that receptivity. It is possible that "Not tonight, I have a headache" is an unrealised natural selection gambit aimed at keeping reproduction in balance.

The LDI principle, given in the value above, re-establishes the potential for balanced reproduction.

- Replace yourself with children, but beyond replacement take counsel with the community

Where natural control is no longer available a specific society based value like this is needed. After thinking through the previous value, perhaps establishing a revived balance mechanism, common sense suggests checking what are the groups ideas about expansion. This value is a simple extension of the precept above "In any choice of possible actions -- etc.

- Deficient babies are not helped to stay alive.

Natural selection has built into the human species a horror of deficiency and deformity which normally results in infants with these problems being left to die. Medical science has put this safeguard aside. Natural selection's aim was/is to assure the species of a future. The task ahead of humanity now is to re-establish this common sense caveat.

- Mating or marriage has the obligation of caring for children till they are adult, but does not have to be for life.

The LDI principle focuses on producing balanced and stable adults. This responsibility faces child-bearers and parents. Whether parents live together for the rest of their lives, or not, is an open choice.

Esther Vilar in her book "The Polygamous Sex" makes the point that male instinctual sex drive operates most of the male life. Woman's sex drive is switched off when she becomes pregnant; from that point on, she wants protection, not sex, and she then demands a provider/protector for herself and her children. She converts her sex driven mate to that role. Partners change physically and psychologically after mating and childbirth, and may grow apart rather than together. The emphasis is on obligations as a parent. Focus on parenting is of critical importance to Life, and to the lives of all individuals.

- Children are loved by parents, aunts and uncles, and grandparents, and by anybody having contact with them.
- Children learn the rules of the society and live by them.
- Parenthood gives the chance to guide a new life.
- The rewards of child rearing are to steer the family and hence humankind.

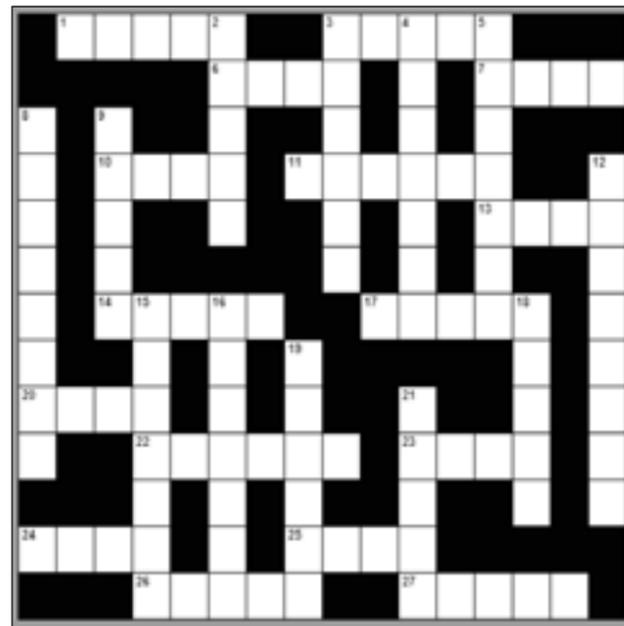
These four statements are included here as an extension of the statement above which ends with "-- children conceived are loved and wanted. -- and are aimed at re-establishing conditions natural selection would have provided.

LDI shifts from thinking of kids as incidental, to the idea that guiding the young is guiding humanity.

# Nimbin Crossword

2009-02

by Sunic



## Across

- Delicious food for cows. Some prefer it smoked
- Lots of delicious food
- Cullen Street Cafe -- good for a 3 across
- These fish migrate across the ocean to breed
- Trendy? Fresh
- Local fruit -- grows as a weed
- US space agency
- Reduce (of noise, or rain)
- Run away
- (French) Christmas
- Glass (to be coloured) or petrol (before ULP)
- A Greek god -- ruler of Mount Olympus
- Light or energy surrounding a person
- Flown from the ground on a string? Bird of prey
- Infest unclean kitchens and Nimbin ashtrays
- Celtic burial mound

## Down

- Performing captive marine mammals? US elite navy unit
- Hippies
- Farmers' guide to coming weather
- Local creek, and Shire
- Light from our star -- needed for growth of 1 across
- Capital of Ghana
- (Amount of) water from the sky -- needed for growth of 1 across
- (4,3) Attached to front of car to make sure anything you hit dies
- Shakespeare's Queen of the Fairies
- Large North American deer - extremely relieved at US election result
- Arab ruler
- Central American civilisation

Solution Page 23

**102.3**

**102.3**

**102.3**

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# Postcard from Lake Toba

by Ed Keiffer

Christmas Day, 2008  
Silimalombu, North Sumatra,  
Indonesia

Hello to all in Nimbin from Samosir Island in magnificent Lake Toba, the world's largest crater lake, on the equatorial island of Sumatra. This huge lake (1,130 sq. km) was formed after a volcanic explosion about 70,000 years ago so massive that it is believed to have wiped out much of life on earth at the time (including about 90% of humans).

We have been for several weeks in the small settlement of Silimalombu, which clings to the steep slopes of the lake's edge with about 30 homes, a church (yes, they are Christian) and a few dozen workers' cottages and shacks. Lea and I were invited to Silimalombu by an Indonesian diplomat in Melbourne who was born and grew up here. He remembers the days when he was young and his village was pure, back before the days of throwaway plastic packaging and massive fish farms.

Over the past five years our diplomat friend has been able to tolerate little time in his formerly beloved village. The smell of putrefying fish and burning plastic has been more than he could bear. He has invited us to Silimalombu in the hope that perhaps we could help develop a recycling and waste management program similar to the one we helped to set up a few years ago in Sukunan, near Yogyakarta, Central Java. (For more info see: [www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/research/sukunan](http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/research/sukunan)).

In exchange for our help, he has kindly provided our air tickets and promises of all the rice and fish we can eat.

At Silimalombu our bedroom is located on concrete stilts over the lake. We walk carefully to the kitchen in the main building five metres away for our generous portions of fish and rice and the occasional offering of mystery meat. We step carefully over sharp-edged pipes, jagged bits of scrap metal, 44-gallon drums, various manures, and scattered piles of bricks: a chaotic, disorganized industrial site overrun with pigs, chickens, mangy dogs, scruffy sick puppies, children, faeces and rotting fish. Ah, the joys of the anthropologist and aid worker!

The village of Silimalombu



Fish farming at Lake Toba.

Photo by Lea Jellinek

thrived in former years when it had a smaller human population and was surrounded by jungle, wildlife, fruit trees and wild fish swimming in drinkable water. After several recent decades of progress, the village is now at the margins of habitability. The land is mostly steep with boulders right to the lake, and is barely accessible by "road". Most of the forest has been felled. The villagers have scraped out a ledge along the lake's edge where they have built their houses. The soil among the rock is very fertile, and all manner of fruit trees and vegetables could be grown if they were protected from free-ranging animals.

Alas, numerous pigs, chickens, dogs and water buffalo roam around the houses. All are eaten or sold for meat. The people here are quite obsessed with flesh eating in many forms (in-laws were once a favorite). They seem to have little interest in eating fruits or vegetables.

Silimalombu is largely controlled by one family that owns most of the land, animals, and several boats that provide transport to the mainland town of Parapat. The family also manages a Swiss-owned enterprise that farms fish (tilapia, a species from the Nile delta) that employs 93 people at subsistence wages. Fish are fed almost constantly in densely packed cages in the lake.

The Swiss firm, "Regal Springs" set up fish farming in Lake Toba around 1999. (Google them to read how environmentally responsible they claim to be!) There can be 50 to 100 cages located in the waters off each village. Over the years, stocking rates have gradually increased to maximize profits (90% of which go out of Indonesia).

Now each cage contains thousands of densely packed fish. Fish are stressed and many die, probably from overfeeding, overcrowding and lack of oxygen. We have been told that the fish grown here cannot be imported into Europe because their levels of antibiotics are too high. So they are exported primarily to the USA!

Every day, dead fish are collected from the cages. About 75% of these (the best of the lot) are taken away by the company. The remaining 25% are taken by boat to the village shore where they are sorted by local women. All but the most visibly decomposed of these are scaled, gutted, salted, dried in the sun, and then sold to Indonesian consumers. (Salted dried fish is the cheapest form of animal protein in Indonesia.) This has become a major income earner for the women of the village. Along with the scales and fish guts, those fish too rotten to process are tossed at the edge of the lake to be gnawed upon by pigs and dogs as they rot and wash into the lake with the daily rains. The stench is extreme.

We are gathering growing evidence that the fish farming is contributing significant pollution to the lake via excess fish food, faeces, antibiotics and putrefying fish carcasses. This seems to be the most immediate problem that we are faced with. (There are others, but I don't want to overwhelm the reader.) Using the dead fish as a resource to produce bio-gas (methane) and fertilizer seems to be a real possibility.

Don't get me wrong, Lake Toba is one of the natural wonders of the world and, except for a few "hot spots", is very clean. Great swimming and hiking, and great for kids.

# Thailand revisited

by Bob Tissott

OK, so it's 7am. There we are at the baggage check-in, all set to leave on the first leg of our Middle East expedition, when the woman at the counter asks us if we'd like to cancel our trip. Apparently our destination was temporarily buried under a sea of yellow t-shirts, inside of which were sweaty Thai protestors proclaiming their dissatisfaction with the system.

"And what happens if we don't cancel?" was obviously our measured response. "Oh, we'll just divert to Bangkok and arrange alternative connecting transport," which sounded perfectly feasible without the body-knowledge of the distance involved. A bit like being diverted from Sydney to Brisbane. And so, with a deep sigh of resignation and an acceptance of whatever the fates might have in store, we consigned our luggage to the bowels of the plane and our bodies to the slightly cramped seats.

The wait on the tarmac was nerve-wracking. It took forever to get the bloody doors cross-armed, and an even longer time to get the engine warmed-up. At last the plane started to move... and then it stopped. The whine of the turbo-jets slid down the scale and the captain informed us that someone had cracked under the strain; had, in fact, demanded to be let off the plane. This in itself was the easy bit. The emptying of everyone's baggage onto the tarmac in order to find that passenger's one bag proved to take considerably longer. [This scene was the precursor for a feeling of *deja-vu* much later in the trip when it was our baggage that we were looking at out there on the tarmac but naturally we were totally oblivious to that fact at the present time]

"Anyone else care to jump ship while the baggage is easily accessible?" the captain politely enquired. But we few on board were made of sterner stuff and once the baggage was re-packed we hurled ourselves into the air and headed NNW as fast as we could. As luck (or fate) would have it, the protestors decided to go home while we were in transit and so we arrived much closer to our accommodation than we had expected.

The accommodation turned out to be much emptier than we'd expected and we awoke to discover that we had an entire resort to ourselves. In fact, we appeared to be the only tourists in Baong Tao, which was a little bit creepy. It's hard keeping an entire industry of masseuses, tour guides, restaurants and bargirls busy single-handedly. Two days later we're sneaking out of town on tippy-toes so as not to disturb the ghosts.

Went to Krabi on a Praying Mantis bus; so called because of the huge, protruding rear-view mirrors, like giant mandibles waiting to snap up any unwary pedestrians. In Krabi we discovered a long-lost tribe of destitute taxi drivers, none of whom had eaten in a month. We chose the thinnest looking one and in no time at all we were delivered in air-conditioned comfort to our next deserted resort. The Tropical Herbal Spa & Resort. Sounds lush eh? And so it was... once.

Once it was pampered luxury hidden within thick, tropical gardens and jungle. But unfortunately, the jungle had been cleared to make way for a new high-rise hotel, which stood, looming in its multi-storied, raw



concrete state of semi-construction, ten feet from the side of our quaint wooden bungalow. When it became obvious that the workers had no intention of ceasing their angle grinding or concrete vibration machines when the sun went down (we guessed this by the huge arc lights that suddenly lit our little cabin like a rabbit in the spotty), Diana went to the manager and said... "Not Happy!" The manager phoned the owner of the complex and by 10pm we had managed to shut the whole project down.

Whew! Lucky we hippies rise early and Thai construction workers sleep in. Up at six the next day before they woke (they sleep on-site) and we're off to climb thousands of steps up to the Tiger Temple. Had planned to hire a bomb (that's an old car for any security personnel reading this) but discovered that unlike construction workers, destitute taxi drivers never sleep and the lost tribe were lying in wait for us. And so here we are cruising along in our **brand new taxi**, wondering whether it's OK for us to pick up the occasional fare.

We have many maps, which we discover are great for keeping the new carpet clean and not much good for anything else. It's hard to believe that solid roads can simply vanish despite the maps' shrill insistence that it should be right **here!** Finally, in hysterical desperation, we started taking any turn-offs that appeared. Left, right, right again. All very scientific and Diana was leaving a trail of rice for us to follow home.

Suddenly found ourselves on a road that would feel at home in the backblocks of Barkers Vale, surrounded by mud-encrusted elephants and equally encrusted mahouts. The car, which had never seen roads like this before, started to quiver with a palpable excitement which we were sure would be emulated by its owner when he discovered just where his precious possession had been. "Ah," we said, "this is the real Thailand."

Getting back proved to be a little tricky as it appeared that the elephants had been eating the rice trail. (Who would have thought that their trunks were that dextrous?) Eventually, by following the large pachyderm poos, we made it back to our deserted resort and the warm glow of the construction site's arc lamps.

The next day saw us once again up at sparrow's fart, and after an appropriately cramped time in an Asian aeroplane we landed in the unbreathable, shopping megamart they call Bangkok, which was only made tolerable by the knowledge that we were "in transit". The fact that our hotel also banned the eating of Durian helped as well.

Tomorrow in Jerusalem.

• Follow Bob and Diana's adventures next month in the Nimbin GoodTimes.

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# Chasing Samson Fish

by Pixie, Fishing Reporter

The Nimbin Heads fishing team had three outings over the Christmas period. The most memorable was with a six man team chasing Samson fish about forty kilometres out off Woolli.

The team was Pix, Zac, Doee, Vaughan, Gavin, and Fijian Joansy. With the weatherman prediction being zero to half metre swell and zero to one knot breeze, all we had to do was find the fish. So with a tub full of slimy mackerel and some live bait, we headed out wide and 80 minutes later after a smooth trip, we pulled up on



a small reef.

As soon as we started to fish, we were pulling up good Samson fish; all the fish were between four to eight kilos. Joansy having his first trip to sea with us, soon had his first adrenalin rush with a seven kilo Samson. Being a big

bloke, he was quite surprised at the effort needed to pull up a fish from 200 feet.

On the other side of the boat is our youngest team member, fourteen-year old Vaughan, about 50 Kg wringing wet. His first Samson fish was a pleasure

to watch. Just to change what we were catching, Gavin then pulled up a good seven kilo Kingfish and then we were back into the Samson fish.

After about two hours of hectic fishing, we all bagged out on Samson and had to move away from the Samson reef and look for some Trag, Snapper and Pearly's as only small fish would now fit into our eskys. And as we moved around, the breeze still hadn't gone above a small puff, the day was great, we had plenty to talk about, plenty of fish to clean, and Samson are real white meat which got shared round Nimbin that week.

Tight lines guys. Let's do it again. For those who are counting, our annual trip to Fraser Island is only fourteen weeks away.

# Nimbin Garden Club Notes



**New members welcome.** Garden club activities last year proved very popular with members. Membership is now open.

by Gil Schilling

It's time for the start of another garden club year. The first club meeting for 2009 will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 21st February at Fay Murray's place - start time is 2pm as usual. Fay's garden is located on the Blue Springs Community at the top of Symonds Road - just take the left fork at the community notice board and continue until you see the NGC sign. Please respect the community speed limit and take it easy on the narrow road.

As the first get together for the year, the meeting will largely be a social occasion and a chance for people to catch up with each other after the holiday break. As always please bring a plate to share, a chair to sit on and your cup.

And also don't forget the club swap table. If you have some surplus garden material (seedlings, cuttings, fruit and vegies etc), please bring it along.

## And now for something completely different

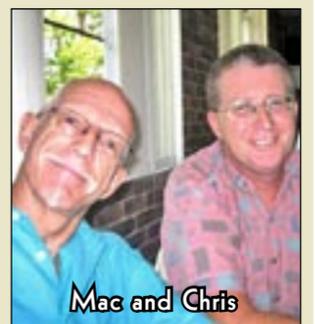
If you would like some help or advice with a particular garden problem, bring it up at the new gardeners' forum.

We have a wealth of knowledge and experience in our membership, and some of the more experienced 'gurus' may just be able to point you in the right direction or help out on a gardening matter that has been bugging you for ages. Worth a try!

Guests, visitors and prospective new members are always welcome. For more information about the club, please contact either Gil (6689-0581) or Jan (6689-0393). Hope to see you at the next meeting.



Jenny and Len



Mac and Chris

# Nimbin Bushwalkers Stride Forth into a Fourth Year



by Len Martin

So here we are folks - our first four walks for 2009 - and our fourth year of operation! Actually we do have a complete February-March program in place which can be downloaded from our web-page: <http://www.geocities.com/nimbinbushwalkers>

At left is a wonderful picture, courtesy of Ian Macdonald, taken during our December 2008 Booyong Walk in the Border Ranges, showing our serious new Presidente, author, web-master and walks leader Michael Smith (at the front), our venerable new Secretary Len Martin (lurking right), our long-suffering Treasurer and Public Officer Kay Martin (middle row, second left), 2009 walks leaders Ron Ronan (middle row, blue ensemble) and Judy Hales (middle front in orange), the notorious Don Durrant (in emergency yellow), Joy Smith at the back (our Physiotherapist for field emergencies), Caroline Macdonald (middle in red) carer of Ian, and Angela Andrews (front in blue) our most recent new member, and a tough cookie.

So, if you are in it for a gentle ramble with a friendly mob enjoying the beauties of our natural environment, come and join us. We are always pleased to have new members and we are always looking for new walks and new leaders!

## February Walks Program

### • Saturday Feb 7 - Condong Falls

Leader Ron Ronan (6633-7207, at night). Grade 3, 3 hr. From top of Minyon Falls down well defined track. Take side track to top of Condong Falls. After picnic lunch by creek, walk back via Quandong and Minyon fire trails. Meet 9am Nimbin Car park, 9.30am Channon Pub, 10am Minyon Falls. Lookout picnic area on Minyon Drive. Bring picnic lunch and swimmers.

### • Tuesday Feb 17 - Mt Nardi to Tuntable

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

### • Sunday Feb 22 - Broken Head to Whites Beach

Leader Michael Smith (6689-9291). Grade 4, 3½hr difficult walking and rock-hopping on and off track, 3-6km

(depending if we drive or walk back). Reasonably fit walkers only. Meet 9am Nimbin car park, then drive (about 1.5hr) in convoy to start of walk at car park next to Broken Head Caravan Park, Beach Rd, off Byron Bay Rd, south of Suffolk Park, or meet there 10.30am. Features rugged, spectacular coastal views, subtropical littoral rain forest, beaches and seabirds. A real adventure. If possible we will leave a vehicle at the finish (car park signposted 4B, behind Brays Beach). That way we will not have to walk back to the start along Seven Mile Beach Road. Bring food for picnic and water.

### • Saturday March 7 - Terania Creek Basin

Leader Judy Hales (6689-0254) Grade 4 3.5km return, 3hr walk along old overgrown logging tracks, then off track (not as bad as Mulgum Falls), some leeches. Meet Nimbin car-park 9am, Channon Pub 9.30am, or at Protesters Falls car-park at end of Terania Creek Rd 10.15am. Bring food for picnic, water and swimming gear for creek.

## Crossword Solution

See page 21.



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## WALLERS BUS COMPANY



### 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

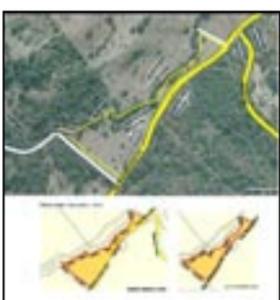
### Leaving Murwillumbah through to Lismore

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		

This service runs Monday - Friday excluding public holidays  
Enquiries phone 6622 6266 Mobile 0428-255-284



Shop 4, The Old Butter Factory  
1454 Kyogle Road, Uki Village  
**02 66 794 115**  
ukirealestate@ihug.com.au  
www.ukirealestate.com.au

<p><b>UKI \$550,000</b></p>  <p>A rare parcel of land indeed! 10 acres of beautiful, lush rolling greens which could be utilized for a variety of small farming options, run a few cattle or let the horses roam freely in this quiet secluded enclave within walking distance to the heritage village of Uki.</p> <p>A massive shed converted to an approved 1 bedroom home sits privately adjoining the above ground pool with a lovely deck to take in the rural aspect.</p> <p>Complete with artists studio and several shade houses to grow your veggies in, this is a self sufficiency property which needs to be inspected to truly appreciate.</p> <p>Mount Warning views and only 10 minutes from Murwillumbah, 25 minutes to the glorious beaches of the Tweed Coast and only 35 minutes to Gold Coast airport. Come and live the Uki life today! Ref. #1194</p>	<p><b>Mt. BURRELL \$189,000</b></p>  <p>Enjoy the peace, tranquility and privacy that is share 4 on this popular 17 share Multiple Occupancy.</p> <p>A quaint 1 bedroom cottage sits in the middle of this approximately 3-acre allotment, with flush toilet and a brand new state-of-the-art professional solar system to power all mod-cons.</p> <p>A sun-drenched balcony sits out front where you can take in the view of your own private mini-valley.</p> <p>Good rain water storage and access to one of the many community dams on the property means plenty of water to self-sustain your own private veggie patch.</p> <p>Come and enjoy a real tree-change and community living now. Ref. #1180</p>	<p><b>DOON DOON \$499,000</b></p>  <p>Beautiful, warm and cosy cottage set on nearly an acre of manicured easy care gardens with super views of both the Doughboy and of Mt. Warning.</p> <p>Very quiet and private location with undulating farmlands surrounding the property. Kick-back on the spacious deck which takes in 3 aspects so you can make the most of the breezes and sunshine and watch the wallabies play in the fields below. The owners have spent a lot of time and money getting this property to the state it is in now where you don't have to do anything.</p> <p>Good water storage, big double garage and ample downstairs storage space complete this idyllic lifestyle picture.</p> <p>Set in Doon Doon, one of the most picturesque parts of the valley and just 30 minutes to Murwillumbah and under an hour to the Gold Coast. With fishing, sailing and canoeing on your doorstep just minutes away at Clarrie Hall dam. Put yourself in the picture. Ref. #1189</p>
<p><b>Mt. BURRELL \$495,000</b></p>  <p>Start your tree-change here on this beautiful parcel of land near Mount Burrell, surrounded by National Parks and having direct access to the Tweed River with an irrigation license to 2010.</p> <p>Solid, older style 2 bedroom house with lots of shedding and water infrastructure currently in place. Great views to Mount Warning and ready access to Nimbin, Kyogle and Murbah.</p> <p>Priced to sell. Inspect today!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23 ACRES FLAT USEABLE LAND WITH TWEED RIVER FRONTAGE</li> <li>• IRRIGATION LICENCE 20 MINUTES TO NIMBIN 35 MINUTES TO MUR'BAH</li> <li>• HUGE SCOPE TO IMPROVE WITH ADDED CAPITAL GROWTH</li> </ul> <p>Ref. #1193</p>	<p><b>NIMBIN \$775,000</b></p>  <p>This amazing 105 Frost Free Terraced Acres sits proudly at the foot of Mt Nardi in the Nimbin Valley. Just 6km of sealed roads leads to Nimbin Village's café lifestyle, schools, hospital and sports clubs.</p> <p>This property has several springs and streams for year round irrigation and drinking supply. Included is an Architecturally Engineered shed extension with panoramic views of the Nimbin Valley.</p> <p>Grow Industrial Hemp, breed cattle or start an Eco Tourism Facility (Lismore City Council will allow up 36 S.C Units as part of an approved Rural Retreat Facility STCA), it's your choice.</p> <p>Included in the sale is 240 volt solar system, instant hot water gas unit, slow combustion fireplace and a gravity fed water tank. Plus ADSL. Very Motivated Vendor keen to negotiate. Ref. #1187</p>	<p><b>UKI \$229,000</b></p>  <p>1724m<sup>2</sup> of village residential land in the centre of Uki, with possibilities for commercial usage (STCA).</p> <p>Walk to all that the beautiful village of Uki has to offer and gain the capital rewards whilst living in this sought after location!</p> <p>Building DA in place and ready to go. It is very rare to get a large level building block in Uki, so inspect this one quickly to avoid missing out. Ref. #1173</p>

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After hours contact: John 6628 2182, Peter 0428 890 373, Lis Denmead 0447 891 004

66 Cullen St. **Nimbin**

<p><b>FAMILY HAVEN \$330,000</b></p>  <p><b>NEW PRICE</b></p> <p>A lovely tree lined driveway leads up to this family home. This fantastic home has more than enough room for the whole family with a large, clean kitchen, 4 bedrooms, a huge light and airy living room and a studio attached to the garage. Set on a sealed road only minutes to town with a rural outlook this property ensures peace and tranquility with all of the conveniences of village living. The land is rich and level with amazing views of the ranges, ensuring many happy hours of gardening and more than enough room for the kids. This is great buying on today's market!</p>	<p><b>MAGIC HAPPENS \$113,000</b></p>  <p><b>NEW PRICE</b></p> <p>Occasionally an opportunity to be part of something special comes up. This secluded two acre share set on Nimbin's 5-star community awaits... Tucked away off the main access road, this block has a sunny northerly aspect providing ample opportunity for solar power (with excellent extrarebates investigated &amp; available). Surrounded by old growth trees and with stunning expansive views of the pinnacle and the caldera this is truly a special place. The owners have commenced work and there is a driveway down to a laser leveled building site, plus clear clean spring water piped to three locations on site. Community fees have been paid in full until Feb 09.</p>	<p><b>GARDEN OF EDEN \$279,000</b></p>  <p><b>NEW LISTING</b></p> <p>A tranquil 8 acre park-like share on a small MO, this exceptional grid-powered homestead has well-groomed gently rolling land, two veggie-gardens, a fruit orchard, bamboo groves, and maple stands. There are three dams, one fifty meters long and eight meters deep. There is a bright, open-plan two bed steel-framed house. The house has a well designed kitchen and a bathroom with a bath/shower and flush toilet. Attached is a beautiful studio, with cathedral ceilings and large entertaining deck. There is also a lock-up garage, double car-port and two sheds. This homestead is one of the best, a magical place in the sought after Blue Knob area; only ten minutes from Nimbin and an hour to the Gold Coast. The six-share 'tenants-in-common' MO has an excellent deed with no restrictions on sale or purchase, bar first offer to community members. The community has public liability insurance and pets are allowed.</p>
<p><b>BLUE KNOBIA \$650,000</b></p>  <p><b>NEW PRICE</b></p> <p>185 acres of magnificent undulating land only five minutes from Nimbin and set in one of the area's best valley's. This property runs from fast flowing creeks to timbered hills with pockets of lovely rich soil. Amazing northerly views of the Nightcap National Park from this 2 bedroom 1920's cottage. The home is nestled on a private plateau with spreading fig trees, and lends itself to many uses including family farming or Multiple Occupancy (STCA). This rare find is well worth an inspection.</p>	<p><b>FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS \$525,000</b></p>  <p><b>NEW PRICE</b></p> <p>A long leafy road leads up to a gentle hill where a turn of the century Queenslander stands under magnificent giant hoop pines. There is an abundance of water from three creeks, the biggest with a deep swimming hole. The Swimming holes are surrounded by giant trees covered in staghorns. The home is big, graceful and authentic in style and character. There are pressed metal ceilings, VJ timbers, wide flooring and stained glass windows, all of the authentic features make this Queenslander such a desirable home to own. To this add stunning views and an array of outbuildings you have the complete picture perfect property.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HELP!!</b></p> <p>We need new listings! Our office has been really busy over the last few months and we have been selling our listings. If you are thinking of selling please contact our office for a free appraisal of your property. We also have a huge rental demand in the area and do not have enough homes for rent, if you have a home for rent and would like us to manage please contact the office.</p>