Homeopathics etc

by Tarang Bates

ur roads are back to being creek beds, full of ruts and rocks. Very slippery... sliding off the edge of reality... I mean, roads becomes a diversion at times like these.

The rain keeps coming down in buckets, even the chooks are walking round in circles and the horses hanging around with their tails between their legs, looking dejected. People around here are fairly inventive and we have a village that loves gatherings - if you can get out of your driveway! The local cafes are good places to hang out on rainy days, listening to the distant drumming in the street. African dance being resurrected on Wednesdays brings good energy and focus to the village.

Our trees are growing at an incredible rate, along with the weeds. I love the shade, greenery and hanging leaves, but I guess we have to seriously weigh up the bushfire threat, in light of recent events. We are a bushfire prone area, to some degree. The sun can be incredibly hot in summer, without a sea breeze up here in the hills. What to do? Do we chop down all the trees around us and live in airconditioned boxes, as some would have us do? I don't think so! Most of us haven't the power or the desire to do that. I am rather attached to my beautiful, shady garden.

Yesterday I was out and about with my macro lens, about to take a close up of a bat flower (amazing things) when something made me look down...I



was standing right in the middle of a huge jumping ant nest - with crocks on! Everyone knows how they love sneaking in those holes around the side of crocks, I moved faster than greased lightning. The nests are quite visible at the moment, being built into mounds with sticks, leaves and soil, lifting the entrance out of the flooding rain. So keep your eyes open (recommended form of pain management). ARSENICUM, otherwise.

Sore throat remedies

ACONITE: is most effective at the very beginning of a sore throat. Difficulty swallowing or speaking, with a constricted feeling is common. The throat is red, dry and painful and there may be a burning or pricking feeling. Aconite is one of the remedies included in AAGE, the cold and flu remedy. LACHESIS: for when the throat feels very dry and may be swollen. Pressure or touch may cause pain and this can run into the ear. Tonsils may be enlarged and dusky colour, a need to constantly clear the throat, but the mucous clings on and cannot be shifted very easily.

For more information about these and other Homeopathic remedies, contact me on 6689-1452 tarangbates@yahoo.com.au.

Ayurvedic Info



Thange of season!! Soon we'll be out of wet season and ✓into autumn. As you may remember, wet season is hot, humid and wet. Everything gets aggravated in wet season!!!! Anything from eczema to diabetes, from fungal complaints to asthma, from brain fag and dementia to heart attacks - all things get worse in this season. But take heart! In autumn, vata and pitta begin to alleviate, as it moves from hot and wet to dry, light, cold and breezy. The predominant taste of salt pacifies vata so salt should be used in moderation in food at this time. Toxins that have built up over the last two months will now become loose enough to clean out. So, Autumn is an optimal time in the ayurvedic year because it is suitable to do panchakarma, specific deep cleanses. The type of panchakarma done in autumn clears vata and pitta toxins, cleaning the large and small intestines, allowing the nervous system to settle and the skin and liver to purify.

Panchakarma requires a period of preparation to allow the toxins to loosen so they can be easily expelled. Preparation can include dietary modification, massage, exercises and sweat therapies. For the in-depth treatments, we recommend a special consultation as health assessment and supervision are required.

Autumn has its own protocol that includes morning massage, meditation and moderate exercise. Avoid black tea and coffee after dinner. Breakfasts can include oatmeal, cream of rice, tapioca and semolina. Lunch and dinner can include tortillas, chapatis, steamed vegetables and kitchari. Agni or digestive fire starts to improve in autumn as the weather cools. Salads are not recommended, but soft soups and stews are, especially cooked with ghee. Warming spices can now be reintroduced and herbal teas such as cummin, coriander and fennel or ginger, cinnamon and clove are good. Colours to wear include red, yellow, orange and white. Avoid late nights, and afternoon naps are allowed. Hot milk at night with cardamon and nutmeg will ensure a restful night's sleep.

Autumn in Ayurveda starts mid-March and goes for two months to mid-May. The junction of seasons is always a vulnerable time for flus so look after your immune system

Helen and John are available for consultations and treatments every Thursday at the Nimbin Apothecary. Phone 66891529 for booking, or for home visits at your convenience.

The Heart of Yoga

by Sam, Yoga teacher

Yoga inspires me and gives to me on a level that nothing else does. It helps me to remember that there is stillness and peace within me even when the outside world is continually changing and moving. Yoga reminds me to be as present as I can with each moment that is given to me...for there is so much richness if I take the time to experience it.

Yoga means union, union with the divine. Most Westerners know Yoga as aseries of asanas (postures), Yoga is actually a much more in depth philosophy consisting life. My belief is that Yoga of Eight steps or limbs that the Sadhaka (Practitioner) must undertake on the path of enormous amount of self Yoga. It is not only a physical practice, but a science of the mind and body and has been around for thousands of years. hidden - physical tension, It is hard to be believe that it was only brought to the West about 100 years ago, and in that time Yoga has spread throughout the world.

There are so many different styles of Yoga these days, but in essence they all stem from what is known as Hatha Yoga (Ha-Sun/Tha-Moon), a you feel and being present balance of opposites and hence with each compassionate a wholistic way of being.

The Eight Limbs of Yoga

- 1. Yama Moral and Ethical Disciplines
- 2. Niyama Self Purification
- 3. Asana Postures
- 4. Pranayama Breath Control 5. Pratyahara - Sense Withdrawal
- 6. Dharana Concentration
- 7. Dhyana Meditation
- 8. Samadhi Bliss

The physical body was to be disciplined first through asanas, some benefits are increased vitality and flexibility, stress relief, lower



blood pressure, strengthens and supports the nervous system, mental clarity, fresh oxygen and blood to all organs and especially the lungs.

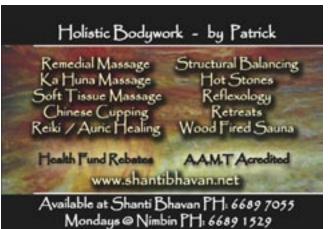
Taking time to practice Yoga on a regular basis is a way of nourishing ourselves as part of a balanced and healthy can be a returning home to ourselves. Yoga brings an awareness if you are open to its magic, and has an amazing way of uncovering what is habitual thoughts, suppressed emotions, even a sense of self.

I believe that Yoga is a way to connect deeply to oneself in a safe and sacred way. Moving through a series of postures with an intention of being yourself free from judgements, accepting where you are, how breath can be one of the most fulfilling and sweetest things.

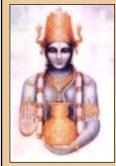
I truly believe that to be compassionate to ourselves is to nourish ourselves. Giving back to this body that serves us so selflessly is unconditional love, so if it is not Yoga, find something that feeds you on a heart and soul level, so that with each breath you feel inspired.

Sam is a certified yoga teacher running classes at the Birth & Beyond Room - Tuesdays (9am) and Fridays (8.30am). Phone 6689 7055.





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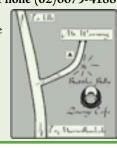
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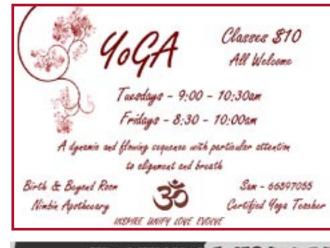
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by Christina Chester Christina@ccdesign.biz

ay and Mardi Grass are coming up soon, providing yet another fantastic opportiunity to share our abundance of talent and creativity with the world.

And what a great time to celebrate our vibrancy through our "Fashion-Expression". At last year's Mardi Grass, Judy Who organised a mini hemp fashion show, which was fun and it would be super if this event grows bigger, to really showcase what you can do with this versatile hemp material.

Hemp makes an exellent source of textile and paper. Hemp grows almost anywhere and requires no pesticides or fertiliser. The fibres are long and very strong and the fabrics produced are renowned for their durability and ability to breathe.

Hemp textiles have been made for some 6000 years all over the world. The original Levi jeans were made from hemp.

So, let's dress up, put on our finest hemp creations and walk together in the parade on Sunday 3rd May, and celebrate the many uses of hemp in a colorful demonstration of it's versatility as a fashion fabric.



Lucia shows off a hemp/cotton mix dress.





Cassandra in a hemp dress with hempsilk trimmings (left) and Jaz wears a hemp silk coat (right). Photos by Thorsten Jones. Designs by Christina Chester.

Hemp fashions in focus for Mardigrass

Thong therapy



Eleventh in a series by **Tonia Haynes**

Bowen therapist and Pranic healer Phone 6689 9284

t appears we are living in the last bastions of paradise. Floods and fire all around, we are truly blest and every day it is becoming more obvious that we need to look after this part of the world and the critters which live here. It seems we are all heading for the endangered species list. Yes, us too. So let's be aware and take extra

Mind you, there are those who are saying if we cut down all the trees and build lots of above ground concrete bunkers, at least us humans would be safe. We know where their heads are; stuck in a very dark and grubby place which has never seen the light, while they count their money.

Speaking of grubby places, this month I would like to share some info about thongs. Not the flimsy pieces of cloth that keep our trouser line smooth and people have to guess if we are wearing knickers, but the thongs we wear on our feet.

Criticising Australia's national foot wear is a bit like burning the flag, so I tremble at the implications as I write this, but my job is to alert others on how to take care of their body, so forgive me if I offend.

I stick my head out even further to criticise those broken-in thongs. You know the ones you would be most irritated to lose because then you have to break in new ones? They are the worst of all.

If you haven't jumped on this month's GoodTimes yet? God forbid! Or at least thrown it down in disgust,

read on and absorb a little scientific data that may well be true.

According to

The American College of Sports Medicine, also Auburn University in Alabama and others who have strange interests, the wearing of thongs causes weak ankles and feet, tendonitis, (crook tendons in the legs), knee, hip and back pain. Thongs also spread the arch of the foot, causing flat feet.

They maintain the following.

- a) When wearing thongs, the feet on touching the ground roll further outward than they should, particularly when one is wearing broken in favourites, with spongy soles.
- b) Curling the toes to keep thongs on our feet, stops the heel from touching the ground with a balanced force which interferes with the normal absorption of shock to the rest of the body.
- c) Curling the toes to keep the thongs on our feet also shortens the natural stride which hinders the spine from executing its normal undulation. A synchronised movement which begins at our sacrum (the V shaped bone at the top of the buttocks) and finishes at the top of our neck, as we move forward
- d) When wearing thongs we become a little like a snake with tight rubber bands wrapped around parts of its body. Like tight rubber bands around

a snake, thongs hinder natural movement. In 2006, the St Kilda AFL club banned their players from wearing thongs, due to injury concerns and that was off the pitch! And in 2002 in Britain, 55,100 people sought medical treatment for problems arising

wearing thongs! This is serious stuff, guys! So before you manifest back, hip, knee or ankle problems, buy yourself a pair of sexy sandals with a slightly raised heel on the inner sole and a back strap which will allow your toes to

relax. If the horse has already bolted and you are suffering from back, hip or leg and feet pain, I am in clinic on Tuesdays in Nimbin and have a clinic at South Tweed on Thursdays and Fridays. Hope and help are always available for crook bones and muscles at my clinics.

Always, my treatments are applied with TLC and more than a little understanding, because over the years I too have suffered from the dehabilitating symptoms of body pain. It surely is a fun free way to be, but it can be rectified if you want to tread a different path through life. Love light and laughter.

> For more info contact: Nimbin clinic: 6689-9284 Tweed Heads clinic: 07 5524-2600.

Cook's corner

Recipe of the Month

by Carolyne

Peach and Almond Fritters

These are delicious eaten with ice cream or just on their own.

Ingredients

1½ cups caster sugar

- 1 tsp ground cinnamon 3 cups self-raising flour
- 2 cups milk
- Vegetable oil for deep frying
- 2 tblspn caster sugar extra
- 4, 60g eggs

2 tsp vanilla extract

2 yellow peaches peeled sliced 3/5mm thick plain all-purpose flour for dusting

Combine the sugar and cinnamon in a bowl.

Place the flour, eggs, milk, vanilla, and extra sugar in a bowl and whisk until

Heat the oil in a large, deep saucepan over medium heat until hot. Dust the peach slices with plain flour and dip into the batter. Deep-fry, in batches, for 2-3 minutes or until golden and crisp. Toss the hot peach fritters in the cinnamon sugar to coat.

For information call Carolyne at the Coffee House Nimbin. ph 66890590

Crossword Solution See page 21.





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The Nimbin GoodTimes Page 19 March 2009 www.nimbingoodtimes.com

LOOK TO THE STARS

YOUR MONTHLY REVIEW OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS

BY BEV MURRAY

arch Venus will be retrograde starting early March to late mid-April. Venus is the ruler of our artistic senses and our yearning for harmonious relationships with others, so this will be a period that focuses on our interactions with others and our longing for peace and tranquility. This can however, also suggest arguments and disagreements in the efforts to achieve such calm! It is also not a suggested time to press on without regard for due process or to dwell on faults and problems unnecessarily.

Jupiter will form a quincux and a triseptile with Saturn this month, thus creating more instability. The full moon in Virgo on the 10th will take exception to this and many will feel the irritations of disorganisation! Mid month Jupiter and Pluto are expansive and global changes will be witnessed on a large scale. Nothing however happens without a serious obstacle or two! Late March is crucial in the money market and in America's financial horoscope in particular.

Quote of the month: Having money is rather like being a blond. It is more fun but not vital. Mary Quant

Aries

Changes on the domestic front are likely but whatever you do there is plenty of support from others this month. The 18th-19th can signal some disputes especially on the work arena, but with a little lateral thinking you can fix this!

Taurus

You have the benefit of more confidence than usual this month, which is just as well as much is required of you and much is happening! A family member seems to bring up a few issues too. The 12th is great.

You are fortunate on many levels this month. Finances take a turn for the better. The last week of the month however can see some changes to your plans and an argument or two. Take it all in your stride and breathe.

Cancer

Community or group events can take a good deal of your time and energy. Finances need revision around the 20th and business or work related obligations will surface. The final few days of the month are about romance.

Romance is in the air for many of you this month. Don't get so carried away with it all that you forget to pay attention to the details of life though! There are some fortunate financial happenings.

Virgo

It's your month for personal appreciation. Enjoy. Romance also looks particularly good! Think again about your plans for the future as there might be some revising necessary. Changes need consideration.

Libra

There is a need to look after health issues this month and give yourself time to relax. The final week of the month can herald an argument or two within the family. Try to be in compromise m ode and say little if possible.

Scorpio

Travel and expansive interests are highlighted. There is some confusion and a major decision or two early on in the month. From the 20th on you are likely to be very busy especially at work.

Sagittarius

It's an excellent month for healing old wounds and clearing up misunderstandings. This is especially true where work colleagues are concerned. When the Sun moves into Aries on the 18th you can expect an upbeat social life!

Capricorn

Others can be demanding this month and you need to be clear about just how much of yourself you are willing to give! There is a lot of local activity and socializing around the 15th. You are in high demand.

Aquarius

There are secrets around this month, best not to get involved! Romance is highlighted and lots and lots of busy activity! While there is much to smile about it can still get a little too stressful.

Wisces

Loved ones are happy with you and all feels right with the world! Spiritual pursuits can be interesting for you, but think twice before any commitments. Finances need attention towards the month's end.

Bev can be contacted on 0401-800-210 or through astralinsights.blogspot.com and



Astrology and the history of human consciousness

PART TWO

by Tina Mews

Last month, we looked through the cycle of the Great Ages known as the 'Precession of the Equinoxes', from the Age of Leo, which began about 10,900 BC, thtough Cancer circa 8700 BC, Gemini, about 6500 BC, Taurus, about 4400 BC to the Age of Aries which dates back to 2200 BC and ends about 1 AD.

he next phase in human consciousness development leads to the Age of Pisces, of which humanity is now experiencing its end phase. It has been an age of artistic and religious inspiration, with the great religious leaders - Christ, Mohammed and Buddha. The message of Pisces has been about the discovery of the 'inner kingdom', the soul-field, concerned with the individual sacrifice for the greater good. It entails the injunction to love impersonally, to care and feel compassion for those who do not belong to our family, tribe or nation. However, the last 2000 years have been marked by emotionally charged religious wars, exploitation of the planet and suppression and demonizing of minorities by materialisticpatriarchal power structures. Esoterically, the Age of Pisces coincides with the birth of the Christ, the descent of

the Sun spirit into matter.

Allegorically the birth of Jesus is placed at the 25th winter solstice on the northern ideas and a new social reality. hemisphere, the day when the light is returning and the vital forces of the sun are on the increase in the yearly cycle.

Historically, the Christ impulse led to the forming of early Christian communities, based on collective living, compassion, sharing and seeking equality amongst its people. Nevertheless, Pisces is a dual sign and while the Jesus message might have encouraged unconditional love and non-violence, (similar to Buddha's), the uncompromising patriarchalmonotheistic notion of the 'one God and his chosen people' - stemming from the previous world age(s) – was still very alive at the time and has been up to the present day, where fundamentalist Christians and Jews are warring with fundamentalist Muslims, exactly in that part of the Earth where our western cultural development began about 10,000 years ago!

At the end of this age and the dawn of the next, humanity is asked to develop a new consciousness based on freedom and self-initiation. The great shift will be from believing (Pisces) to knowing (Aquarius). By using and continuously refining our senses, a new relationship to life and its processes is

developing, which has the power to create the 'divine December, three days after the marriage' between the world of

> What can be expected from the age of Aquarius on whose threshold humanity is now standing? Aquarius is a mental energy field, the sign of knowledge, scientific breakthroughs, new discoveries and collective ideals. Aquarius appreciates individual differences of cultures, is emotionally detached, friend rather than family oriented. The Internet and the information revolution are part of the Aquarian energy expression. However, the great challenge will be for all of us to become involved in creating a global world of peace and freedom based on sustainable living for the good of all humanity.

Tina has studied Astrology for over ten years and has done some of her training with Alan Oken, one of the most soughtafter professional astrologers in the world. At the moment she is writing her FAA (Federation of Australian Astrologers) diploma.

She also holds a Bachelor in Social Science and has worked as a professional counselor for many years.

Tina is available for personal chart readings and astrological counseling. She also is planning to run a course in Astrology from the Nimbin Birth and Bevond Centre, call 6689-7413 or email mewstina@hotmail.



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Clarrie & Sally Rose, trading as



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Commonsense human values

Part 23 in a series by Laurie Stubbs

This completes the trial set and is the last sub-group of values. Like I said at the start, the whole is bigger than

the Ten Commandments – but so are world people numbers, and the complexity of today's civilisation.

A bove the Individual is the Family, and the Group. Seniority structures exist across all races within families so that LDI values would work within them. Each statement's connection to the LDI principle follows directly from those for the individual, and the justification for them has already been discussed

- A primary purpose of the individual life is to reproduce itself; a parent couple is a minimum, but the family may be several couples and generations.
- Life's way is genetic diversity, so there are degrees of relatedness that should not reproduce: when they do, deficient babies may be born.
- The family exists to provide a nurturing group for children; today's children are tomorrow's adults.
- The child to adult phase is long; the family structure allows for this, at the death or absence of father or mother there are other adults ready to accept and to love the bereaved child.

 These first family values emphasise LDI's focus on children. Adults control and steer families and groups, but the values that they use began with "their mother's milk", a generation earlier.

Change is naturally slow. Children developing in a nurturing environment, will have personal balance with open enquiring minds, that respect the past and its lessons. Knowing the overall thrust of life to develop itself, such children have the best chance of becoming stable forward looking adults.

- As the person is tied to the family so the family is tied to the human race.
- Elders wisdom and skills are used for the benefit of the family. All family members understand knowledge of history prevents repeating errors. Elders know there are only 3 routes to passing on their knowledge; by their example; when they are asked to help; and through stories told to small children.
- When they are asked Elders will advise on problems: but they know solutions work only when all parties needs are met.

 The last two of the statements in Family select between options natural selection provides; dominance/ hierarchy behaviours, and the enquiry/ intelligence pattern. Change in the dominance/pecking order uses conflict. Understanding and intelligence can be used to avoid this conflict. Mature adults should have control of themselves, and in

that way influence families and groups.

This group of statements aims to make sure the elders do not take for themselves too great a role in setting family and group directions. No prescription is made on when an adult should become an elder, nor when a child can be accepted as an adult. Both these decisions must be made by the family and the group if they are to be accepted and used.

The Group

- The group exists to make possible the things that everybody uses but its benefits are for the individuals.
- Leaders are servants of the people.
- Group decisions are measured against the LDI principle.
- There is a solution to every community problem that will get the support of all of the community.
- No decision polarises the community around only two alternatives
- If something has always been done one way that's enough reason to challenge the way it is done. A better way may be possible.
- The only conditions where an individual's values are infringed is where individual values depend for satisfaction on the power of the group.
- An individual may not do anything to harm the group.

Most of the content in group statements is common sense taken from statements of values for the individual. The second bracket of three perhaps deserves comment. Since these articles are aimed at western thinking people there is a need to emphasise a shift from adversarial thinking. "Adversarial" has its roots in western individuality and is probably not a result of natural selection. A great deal of western society's alienation/ powerlessness has roots in the allowing a minority of 49% to be over-ridden by a majority of 51%. Societies of many kinds do not use the adversarial approach. Better ways of decision making are commonly used round the world. Political systems have a direct influence on decision making. There is probably little doubt that democracy would not be first "choice" by natural selection. Male dominance, and other basic behaviours suggest a benevolent autocracy as more likely. But because "power corrupts", democracy ought to be the right choice, given the gradual reduction of knee jerk reactions as a result of using a set of values like LDI.

Right now humanity has a choice to opt for methods (and values out of which those methods arise) which are in better alignment with the LDI principle – or to head straight on toward disaster.

That's the end of our trial set of values based on the LDI principle.

"Has it got a dog's chance of becoming generally used?"

That breaks up into other questions: Do LDI values lead humanity in the right direction? From discussion up to here we ought to be able to say the direction is OK., though not everybody will accept that. Many people say "Bring a child into the world as it is today? You've got to be joking." Their view is based on what they call a "realistic" look at the world and humanity's problems. Such outlooks are to be expected, though I believe the outlook is gloomy and predicts "more of the same" and worse. Some say humanity is on the way to extinction. But since any attempt to introduce new values must start from where humanity is now, we are stuck with present attitudes.

The other side of this coin is the Louis Armstrong's song Hey Look Me Over in which he sings "I reckon whenever you're down and out, the only way is up". Saying humanity is doomed by its actions till now misses the point. Disasters or near disasters are turning points, and if you don't have the near disasters you don't get the kind of change you need. A good example of this is the fairly rapid (in human terms) changes of attitude going on about the greenhouse effect. For the first time ever the world's nations are agreeing on action. The big picture is a world reacting — as a world — to a world threatening problem; and hopefully, in time to repair the damage. That tends to prove the truth that you need near disasters. Given the way the brain and society work, changes of thinking must come in part from reaction to threats. What remains is the question of whether humanity is smart enough to act in time. I feel sure we will, and that this is the time to have a new matrix of values ready to be used.

The only workable course is for humanity to go with, and not against, the general thrust of life developing itself. A directional shift inherent in the LDI set of values goes toward a more natural humanity. The task now facing us is to choose among the natural selection options those that promote humanity's overall interest. Among these "best interests" are development of the specifically human characteristics of compassion, sympathy, gentleness, cooperation, and so on. If we had a scale of behaviour with animal at one end and human at the other we could say humankind's species specific behaviour is nowhere near - yet - truly human

What does natural selection want for humanity? What life 'wants' is clearly definable – a joyful, balanced, open minded, and physically fit family living in a supportive society, in harmony with the earth, and ready to capitalise on opportunities as they come up.

This is the threshold being offered by the LDI principle.

Nimbin Crossword

2009-03

by 5ynic



Across

- 1. Exotic hoofed outback animal
- 3. Military walk7. Not a pill, but Brisbane's
- RNA show 8. 0.0254 metres
- 11. Agnetha, Benny, Björn
- & Anni (innit.)
 12. Good friends? Good
 part of the plant
- 13. Sadomasochism (innit.)
- 15. Not proven
- 18. (7,5) West African country, just South of Timbuktu (was Upper Volta)
- 23. Lots
- 24. Behold!
- 27. Greet king's reign? Frozen precipitate dents Colorbond
- 28. Italian region. Sparkling muscat
- 29. Largest continent
- 30. Undiluted? Tidy? cool
- 31. Geeks
- 32. Religion of the caliphate
 - Solution page 19

Down

- 2. Permitted, apparently
- 3. Polish dance
- 4. Resin is used to flavour this Greek wine
- 5. Polytheistic Indian religion6. Of the season after
- Summer
- 9. Carriages in a train? What the "Big 3" build in Detroit 10. European tree – seedpods make chocolate
- substitute 14. (4,4) Marijuana? Anglo woman's name
- 16. Of the smallest North African country
- 17. Swings both ways
- 19. Source of good charas? Region disputed between (5 down) and (32 across)
- 20. Countries and tribes
- 21. Football club (innit.)22. Fertile spot for poetry in
- Nimbin
 25. Rolled _____ make
- porridge
- 26. Peyote, San Pedro and other spiky plants



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Postcard from Israel

by Bob Tissot

t's 5pm, and there we were, trying to get to the baggage counter in the vast and cavernous mausoleum that is Bangkok International Airport and we're wondering if we'd left ourselves enough time to tackle the problems, both real and imagined, that stood between us and the state of Israel.

The first was a barrier, complete with its own little queuing lanes, that had been erected between us and the check-in desk. And behind this barrier was a line of large men and women who had a list of very personal questions to ask each and every passenger. Yes indeed, we had decided to fly El Al!

When we finally reached our particular Mossad agent, and having got all the silly jokes about spies out of my system back in the queue, I strode up to him and said "Shalom". This was greeted with a long stream of what sounded like invective in Hebrew. (It is possible he was saying "Welcome my brother, are you returning home?")

Anyway, I quite innocently said "Sorry, I don't speak Hebrew", thinking this would clarify everything, only to get the third degree as in... "Why did you say Shalom? Do you associate with Hebrew speakers? Why are you going to Israel? Who do you know there? What are their names? What is your father's name?", at which point he took a breath and I started to formulate an answer. But by then he had decided that we were mostly harmless and we were allowed to join the next queue...

It's 10am local, Middle-East time and the entire complement of passengers and crew (except us) has just erupted into a huge cheer as the tyres of our plane made contact with the Holy Land. Much singing and excited chatter, which continues beyond the plane and into the streets and markets. Israelis, at home, are an exuberant lot. Spent the day sleeping on the sandy shores of the Mediterranean before catching a bus to the nerve centre of the Middle East. Jerusalem. Old City.

(Catching a bus, like every of Jerusalem is but a me other major activity in Israel, is best commenced earlier rather than later, as bag searches, body scans, metal detection and X-ray of Jerusalem is but a me of Jerusale



zapping occur at every bus and train station, major supermarket, department store and sporting venue.)

Walking into the Old City is like finding yourself trapped in an interactive Passion Play, and everyone except you knows their lines and you're the only one not wearing a fancy, exotic costume. Our accommodation is 700 years old and we're sleeping on mats up on the open roof with 15 other people, where the 4am call of the Imam wakes you to a surreal world of religious observances, a world where every day is particularly sacred to someone, be they Christian, Muslim, Baha'i or Jew.

The City, which is three-quarters below ground, as in a maze of tunnels and mysterious stairs, begs to be explored, and we throw ourselves into this task with dedication and tenacity. At times we became quite unashamedly lost and disoriented, but felt we had a pretty fair idea of where 20% of things were by the time we had to leave. Within the Old City a traveller can lose a day, a week, a life...

Hired a car at the Sea of Galilee, damn thing has the controls on the wrong side. That would explain why everyone drives on the wrong side too. Steep learning curve. Staying at a kibbutz built 60 years ago by Australians. It felt just like home with bomb shelters. This will be our base...

It's 3pm and the sun is beating down as only the sun of a Wrathful God can do. We're driving in the Golan Heights and the relative sophistication of Jerusalem is but a memory. The sign on the fence says "CAUTION! MINE FIELD!" and I can't believe we're going through the razor wire.

We're in the company of locals, religious Jewish friends who live on land that was once a part of Syria. We've been promised a rare treat somewhere in the middle of a minefield. We've also been assured (and re-assured) that it's all safe if you just keep to the tank traps.

At the end of the adrenalin-fuelled stroll, we came across a true wonder. An ancient well, age unknown but probably at least 1500 years, 5 metres wide and 4 deep, still holding water as it had when it was first built. And not a single stone was out of place. This well is not on any maps, has no known name, and sits forgotten in the middle of a minefield. The original builders would be disgusted.

We bid farewell to the Golan Heights and the UN peacekeepers and follow the Lebanese border over to the coast, stopping briefly at the sacred source of the Jordan River (Banias Springs) to slip a little laissez-faire into the water. From there it was down to Haifa for felafels and politics.

Pigged out on some lefty, lesbian, socialist action while we watched the Israeli airforce practising their bombing runs. Then headed down to rich and apolitical Caesarea to work it all off in the Roman ruins. King Herod built a port here a few thousand years ago and just like Woolloomooloo and Darling Harbour, it's now full of trendy restaurants and bars.

A few kilos of unbelievable Middle-Eastern pastries later we once again consigned ourselves to the public bus service and the five-hour trip across the Negev Desert and Sinai peninsula to the Gulf of Aqaba.

Tomorrow, in'shal'lah, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Climbing the Sphinx

by Michael Smith

inged by sheer cliffs and rising 800 metres above the surrounding farmland, Mount Burrell looms as an impressive landmark. I can see it from my place and have often wondered what it would be like to be up there in a lost world.

Too inaccessible, it has never been logged or farmed. I only know a few people who have been up there. They spoke of an ocean of lawyer vines. There were some who claim to have been on the top of Mount Burrell, but when

questioned, details became vague.

Mount Burrell (the name is possibly derived from the Aboriginal word 'burrul' meaning wallaby), is in the north-eastern corner of NSW and dominates the skyline to the north of Nimbin. Most locals know it as Blue Knob. Mount Burrell is the highest point on the Blue Knob Range and forms part of Nightcap National Park. However, access to it is limited because it is largely surrounded by privatelyowned land. Most of these landowners are concerned with liability and that is reason enough to deny entry.

I put an advertisement in the *NGT* for a walking companion to spend two days on the mountain and three people responded. Between us we knew enough people on the surrounding 'intentional communities' to get permission to start the walk at one, and finish it at another. The plan was to walk the whole length of the Blue Knob Range (4 km) and try to get on to Sphinx Rock from the west. Sphinx Rock, another remarkable landmark, is a mysterious, enigmatic slab of rock that resembles, in profile, its namesake in Egypt.

So early one morning, four bods silently padded past the shacks, dwellings and steep driveways of community people, and climbed the ridge that would take us ever upward to the top. Afoot were clumps of soft grass and centuries-old blackboy trees. We met with a fixed rope on a vertical cliff face and took our chances. If the rope breaks, you're dead. A madness of fear and adrenaline got us all up the roped sections and on to the range proper.

From civilisation below, Blue Knob has the shape of Ayres Rock, looming and spiritual. From the air, Google shows it to be scorpion-like, long and narrow with leg-like buttresses each side, and a tail leading to Sphinx Rock, the stinger. Along the top we passed through eucalypt forests, then rain forest, the ground littered with kilometres of lawyer vine. We wore tough clothing and leather gloves to deal with the backward-facing hooks on this slasher of flesh.

We could have come across anything here. You will find this hard to believe, so check it out at www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2008/02/26/2172927.htm where

you will find fifty accounts of Tassie Tiger sightings in the area around this

Huge trees, after growing unmolested for centuries up here, had died, collapsed and rotted where they were born. Scrub turkey nests were everywhere. Catbird and wampoo pigeon called to keep in contact. We were seeing the 'Big Scrub' as it had always been.

Nearing the top, the loamy soil gave way to rocks and finally, after six hours of walking, a trig station called Blue Knob. I left a visitors' book here and we put up our tents. We had walked the scorpion's back and it was time to slide down its tail to the stinger, Sphinx Rock just visible a kilometre away.

The ridge we trod was narrow, about 5 metres wide, and had a steep drop on both sides. Half of its length was covered in a type of giant lily with stiff leaves three metres long. At times these leaves embraced us or tried to push us back. It got more and more serious, until we found ourselves on the knife edge of the Mount Warning caldera.

We propped in very fear at the prospect of going further. Just 200 metres short of Sphinx Rock was a ledge, one metre wide, bare but for loose dirt and crumbling rock, with a sheer drop of 200 metres on both sides. I offered to rope somebody up if they wanted to cross it. No one was game. We took it in turns to cling to the last stunted tree in this wild and spectacular place and gaze upon Sphinx Rock in its terrible isolation.

A metre above our heads we heard a whoosh as a falcon tried to see us off. It was time to play happy campers and return to our tents to enjoy the vibe of this special place, 933 metres above sea level.

At nightfall it got windy and a deep cold came over us. We crawled into our tents just as it started raining. My home-made shelter, weighing just 400gm, was now being tested. Through the night I listened to heavy forest-drops of rain hitting the material. This would send a fine, barely noticeable, spray of condensation over my face. Warm and snugly, I drifted off, to dream of a family of thylacines wandering through our campsite.

We woke in the clouds. I set a compass bearing (new EPIRB), that would take us down the correct ridge. We were home to our other lives before lunch.







Page 22 The Nimbin GoodTimes March 2009

Nimbin Bushwalkers enjoy great walks despite recent rains

by Len Martin

res folks, despite the recent persistent rains, all of the club's walks went ahead. Only one problem, I didn't get to do any of them, though I did turn up at all the starts in Nimbin car park to distribute the necessary bureaucratic paperwork. A personal low for a variety of reasons that I shan't dwell on. But worse is to come - I shall achieve a personal low by missing our first walk in March, though with good reason. I've been dragged onto the NSW Flying-fox Licensing Review panel as a scientific expert. So I shall be enjoying the Sinny fleshpots while our intrepids tackle the mysterious wilderness of Terania Creek Basin.

So I'm extremely grateful to Ian McDonald for the pictures and Don Schell for his report of our first walk of the year, despite the somewhat hackneyed use of the expression "intrepid".

The intrepid Nimbin Bushwalkers have been hard at it and enjoyed a couple of very pretty walks in the rainforest and at the beach. On the 7th of February, Ron Ronan led a group of 15 to Quondong Falls in Nightcap National Park. The recent rains had good flows in the streams and Minyon Falls was spectacular.





The trail winds along the ridge then headed back up the fire through the scribbly gums with glimpses back at Minyon Falls and then begins a gentle descent. At the Palm Valley trail intersection we turned off and headed down through beautiful stands of Bangalow palms until the trail reaches the fire road. A short aside to the top of Quondong Falls was rewarded with a great view out over the valley. A busy photo stop ensued as the rocks at the edge of the falls were festooned with sundews, ferns and flowers. The troops

road topping out in a grove of Cypress pine which made a nice shady break for lunch. Fringed Lilies and Ladies' Tresses Orchids in bloom along the trail added to the delights. Then it was an easy downhill back to the Minyon Falls picnic area. Here a huge goanna entertained with his inspection rounds of picnickers to see who had the tastiest lunch, settling for a snag off the barbie.

A mid-week Downhill from Mount Nardi looked to be off

because of the weather. Even the intrepid Ron Ronan had rung in to pull out because it looked to be too wet. The intrepid bare-foot leader Judy was at the meet in Nimbin car park when I arrived in the increasingly bright morning. Suddenly, Ron appeared, then Lesley and Tony Trott and the four went off to enjoy a fabulous rain-free walk.

Michael Smith reports on the last walk in February. It was attended by 15 walkers, including two visitors. The wild, forested cliffs and beaches of Broken Head were to be our pleasure grounds for 4 hours on a blessedly breezy, and muggy day. It is good for the inhabitants of the hills, shacks and farming abodes of Nimbin to spend time on the coast amid seabirds, wildflowers, sand, salt water and really expensive real estate. Whilst we swim naked in the rainforest pools, here they display on the beaches in their birthday suit, and sprawl about getting the sun into unfamiliar places. We spent our time on grassy knolls, sandy beaches, spiky rocks, sea caves and littoral forests. Judy and Michelle did the lot barefoot, and one of our number, unburdened by two legs, made it as well.

We swam, we ate, we talked, you should have been there, it was a bloody bewdy.

Nimbin Garden Club Notes

Good turnout. February Club Meeting in Fay Murray's garden, Blue Springs. Photos by Len Martin (above) and Jan Schilling.

by Gil Schilling

→ he Nimbin Garden Club's first meeting for the year attracted in excess of 30 enthusiastic members and visitors. It was particularly pleasing to see quite a few new faces among the usual suspects. Fortunately the weather was mild and despite threatening skies, the rain held off for the afternoon.

Fay's immaculate small park-like garden is set on a gentle slope with long views as far as the Nimbin Rocks. The garden is a well thought out, attractive mix of native and exotic species that also includes a small veggie plot. Two particular features creating much interest on the day were a beautiful Ivory Curl tree (Buckinghamia celsissima) in full flower, and a spectacularly healthy Leichhardt Tree (Nauclia orientalis).

Much socializing also took place as members enjoyed afternoon tea served on Fay's verandah. The swap table was also popular with many - a big thanks to those members who were able to contribute something.

The next Club meeting will be a visit to the Djanbung Permaculture Gardens, Cecil Street, Nimbin at 2pm on Saturday 21st March. (For a preview check out http:// permaculture.com.au/central/) All members and intending visitors should note that a \$5 per head fee will be charged for the tour of the gardens. While Djanbung have even said they will provide us with tea and coffee, members are reminded to bring the usual plate of something to share for

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



March Walks Program

Walks meet @ north exit of Nimbin car park for car pooling, or at start of walk. Unless otherwise specified, visitors (non-members) welcome, but will be required to pay a fee of \$5 per walk - deducted from membership fee when they join Club. Membership \$15/head to Treasurer Kay Martin, PO Box 61, Nimbin, 2480 (Ph 6689 0254).

Saturday March 7th - 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 Road 10.15am. Bring food for picnic, water and swimming gear for creek.

Tuesday March 17 - Lillian Rock

Leaders Michael Smith (6689 9291) & Miriam Ella. Grade 3 climb, Lillian Rock, no tracks, 2km. Meet 9.30am Nimbin car park or 9.45am at Blue Knob Hall Gallery. Club members only.

Sunday March 22nd - Three easy coastal walks

Leader Ron Ronan (6633 7207, evenings only) Grade 2.

- Arakwal National Park just south of Byron Bay. Heath-land, wildflowers, beach & lagoon, 2km return, 1 hr.
- Tyagarah Nature Reserve Start Brunswick Heads Surf Club, South Beach Road, Brunswick Heads. Walk down a fire trail and back along the
- Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve Start at end of North Head Rd (off Orana & Rajah Rds) Ocean Shores. A short but rich walk with coastal rainforest, river entrance & beach,

800m, 45min. Lots of flowers and

Meet Nimbin car park 8.30am, Channon Pub 9am for leader, 10am front of Oasis Resort, Scott St, Byron Bay. Bring swimmers and lunch.

DAY WALK GRADINGS

Grade 2 (Easy-medium) Easy walk. Opportunity to walk easily in natural environment on well marked tracks. Suitable for beginners.

Grade 3 (medium) Medium walk with some hilly sections and/or rougher terrain. Defined and distinct tracks with some steep sections requiring a moderate level of fitness. Suitable for beginners.

Grade 4 (medium-hard) Steeper, rougher terrain, may have off-track sections. Explore and discover relatively undisturbed natural environments mostly along defined and distinct tracks. Tracks can be steep. Not suitable for most beginners.



Normal	Depart	limes	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

Loaving mar vinaribar tiroagri to Liorioro								
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

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This beautiful parcel of land near Mount Burrell is surrounded by National Parks and has direct access to the Tweed River with an irrigation license to 2010.

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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.

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Pack up your belongings and move into the heritage village of Uki.

There is nothing left to do in this lovely home but move your furniture in and put your feet up on one of the 2 private balconies with tropical forest surrounds. Awesome near-new gourmet kitchen, light and airy living areas with lots of outdoor living to be had.
Peaceful, yet just a stroll to the

vibrant village with cafes, shops, and the colour of Uki right at your door. Separate guest sleeping or artists

studio plus lots of under house storage available in this timber 2 bed

This is a highly sought after position in one of the best areas of the valley at the foot of the iconic Mount Warning.

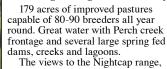
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Ref. 1195

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Ref.1197

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real estate

66 Cullen St. Nimbin

HISTORIC HOME \$460,000



Be prepared to fall in love..... Completely private, with a gentle rural outlook and its own dam, yet just a 5 minute stroll to Nimbin Village is the former nurses accommodation that has been restored to perfection. This majestic circa 1930 home has numerous

high quality features that you would expect from a home that has been so lovingly restored; 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms; 1 with a truly exceptional claw foot bath, polished floors, and high ceilings. The gourmet kitchen is light drenched with stainless steel appliances and adjoins a spacious dining area that opens through french doors onto a deep verandah that is perfect for taking in the view and cool summer breezes. This home is refined country living.

PICK ME! \$465,000



property has 650, 4-year old Hass avocados that are just ripe for the picking. The avocados are irrigated by a giant 5 mega litre dam as well as two other smaller dams. Recently a large brand new machinery /packing shed has been erected and the whole property

has been surrounded by wallaby-proof fencing. The hard work has been done; this property is ready for you to build your dream home with a range of excellent sites perched on top of the ridge with expansive views to the north and across the top of your very own orchard.

LOVE SHACK \$249,000



Looking somewhere to run away to? This magnificently constructed bedroom two home could be the love nest you've always dreamed about. Hand stacked stone walls. exposed rustic timber poles,

wood panelling and a wood heater to die for; this home has charm and ambience. The property has over 70 olive trees, 50 citrus trees, mangoes, pecans, mulberries, apricots, nectarines, guavas persimmons and so many more varieties and so many more varieties, you could make an income and never have to leave

TERANIA CREEK FARM \$515,000



This authentic colonial nestled amongst flowering magnificent frangipanis and lush tropical gardens. The large four bedroom home has french doors opening onto sweeping verandahs, high ceilings, wide timber floor boards, quaint casement windows and many more gorgeous features associated with

a home of this vintage. The open plan kitchen has a modern stainless steel cooktop and a bank of Eastern facing windows that let the morning sun stream in. The rear of the home opens onto a terraced entertaining area that is shaded by mature producing mangoes. The property has an eternal spring and for the last 7 years the farm has operated as an organic farm ensuring rich clean soil and excellent productivity.

THE ROUND HOUSE \$510,000



Perched on top of a ridge overlooking a rainforest-clad creek with grand sweeping views to distant mountains and cliffs is this unique glass and timber octagonal home. The home is open plan design with the large living area located in the core of the building. A surrounding outer room encompasses the bathroom and kitchen as well as a sunroom/office.

all opening onto a covered deck allowing the fantastic views to be enjoyed in all weather. The home is solar powered, has gas hot water and a big shed sure to satisfy any handyman. There are 150 acres of rich fertile soil surrounded by stands of native hoop pines, fruit trees and crisscrossed with rainforest walks. Just a few kilometers to the quaint village of Cawongla, at this price this property is well worth inspection.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD \$430,000



Set high on the ridge above Nimbin this lovely 12 acre property expansive views over the Nimbin valley. Tropical gardens and mature fruit trees surround this tidy four bedroom home. The home is set up for the family, with a large tiled kitchen/

dining area. The kitchen is fresh, modern and clean, it also has 2 stoves, gas and woodburning; sure to keep the whole house warm on those chilly nights. The bedrooms are large with huge with windows to let the sun stream in and the breezes blow through, the main bedroom has a massive built in robe. There are raked ceilings throughout and beautiful decks to the front and rear ensuring plenty of space for relaxing in all weather.

Page 24 The Nimbin GoodTimes March 2009 www.nimbingoodtimes.com