

# ASTRO FORECASTS BY TINA MEWS

YOUR MONTHLY REVIEW OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS

## February

At the moment, the Sun sends its cosmic rays through the airy realm of socially oriented Aquarius. People born under this sign can have a firm belief in a better future and often are ahead of their time with their scientific inventions. They feel destined to fight for a cause. Aquarians are the networkers of the zodiac, the sign of friendship and groups. On the downside, they are rather detached emotionally, and can get too fixed on their own ideas.



Aquarius is associated with electricity and our ability to perceive the world intuitively as a coherent and interdependent field. As we enter the Age of Aquarius, an increasing number of people discover their psychic abilities. We know now that we live in a universe, where all parts are connected energetically; this includes our planet and all living things, such as ourselves. At this moment in time we are waking up to the painful truth that damage done to one part will have negative effects for the rest.

The New Moon (Feb 3) might inspire us to define our cause more clearly. Mars, the planetary force field symbolizing action will remain close to the Sun until February 20. What causes are worth fighting for and which new ideas can help to bring about a better future? Also the dwarf planet Ceres, which symbolically stands for the ancient goddess of grain, conjoins the New Moon configuration. This indicates that we might have to use our energies wisely by planting more gardens and growing our own food. Self-sufficiency is increasingly important, while various community projects could find a lot of the support right now.

The Full Moon in fiery Leo on the 17th might push a few buttons. There could be conflicts about finances and we can expect some difficult economic conditions arising on the global arena. Jupiter, the planet signifying expansion and growth, is moving into a stressful square with Pluto, the energy field that demands transformation of outworn structures (22-26 Feb). It is important to keep questioning our principles and be aware of any hidden dogmatic or inflexible attitudes we may still hold, or which others may impose onto us.

### Aries

You could feel strongly about meeting life head on right now; therefore be clear about the nature of your cause. It is an excellent time of becoming involved in community projects that satisfy your inner calling for greater things. Be vigilant on Feb 10 and 25, as some buttons could be pushed.

### Taurus

Which is the right path to take right now? How and where do I invest my energies best? The vibes of this New Moon (Feb 3) might be quite challenging; friends could call on you for support. Yes, you can rely on your strength, but avoid being controlling or too preconceived in your opinions – just accept and be there for them!

### Gemini

This could be a very inspiring time, if you manage to keep up with the multiplicity of information that reaches you at the moment. Avoid making up your mind prematurely, instead assimilate and integrate your impressions. Filter through everything with care until the truth reveals itself.

### Cancer

The rebellious and unconventional vibes of Aquarius can provoke anxiety, if you belong to the hypersensitive and security oriented type of crabs. Nevertheless, you could make use of the current electrifying energies and introduce those changes that allow you to grow and are truly life-enhancing.

### Leo

Are you ready to share your creative products and projects with others? Try not to hold back what needs to be distributed. It is not a time for being fixated on yourself or your own purpose, instead open up to the ideas and ideals of others. This could be a challenging as well as a most enriching period of your life.

### Virgo

At present, you might need to focus your attention onto your personal well-being and health. An excess of mental energy has to be counterbalanced with the necessary space for nurturing and relaxation. Venus, the planet of pleasure is traveling through your fun sector. Use the moment for creative self-expression.

### Libra

You truly are on a roller coaster for self-discovery and right now it could feel like having left behind a period of deep self-reflection. New people are entering your life and inviting you to take some risks. Around the Full Moon (Feb 18) you might feel a bit disappointed as some of your hopes could turn out as illusions. Just remember that this is part of the game!

### Scorpio

Right now, your energies could be heavily focused on your inner life and /or domestic affairs. Are there things in the home that require fixing or hurts that need healing? Communicate any worries with trusted friends. Try not to be fixated on your own position, instead be open for new impulses.

### Sagittarius

New networks could develop at the moment in your immediate environment. It is a great time for sharing ideas with others and working out details that will lay the foundation for future projects. Try to maintain an open-minded attitude so that you can take advantage of the unfolding flow of things.

### Capricorn

Is it possible that you need to loosen up a bit? Does your life really depend on the exact achievement of your goals? Worries about money will only attract money problems. Between Feb 22- 26 you would be well advised not to expect too much of those close to you and, please, do not force any issues!

### Aquarius

Your imagination might be strongly activated at the moment. Therefore, make sure that your aspirations remain somehow practical. Try not to get caught in the uplifting currents of your far-off vision! The shifting of paradigms requires you remain focused on the task at hand.

### Pisces

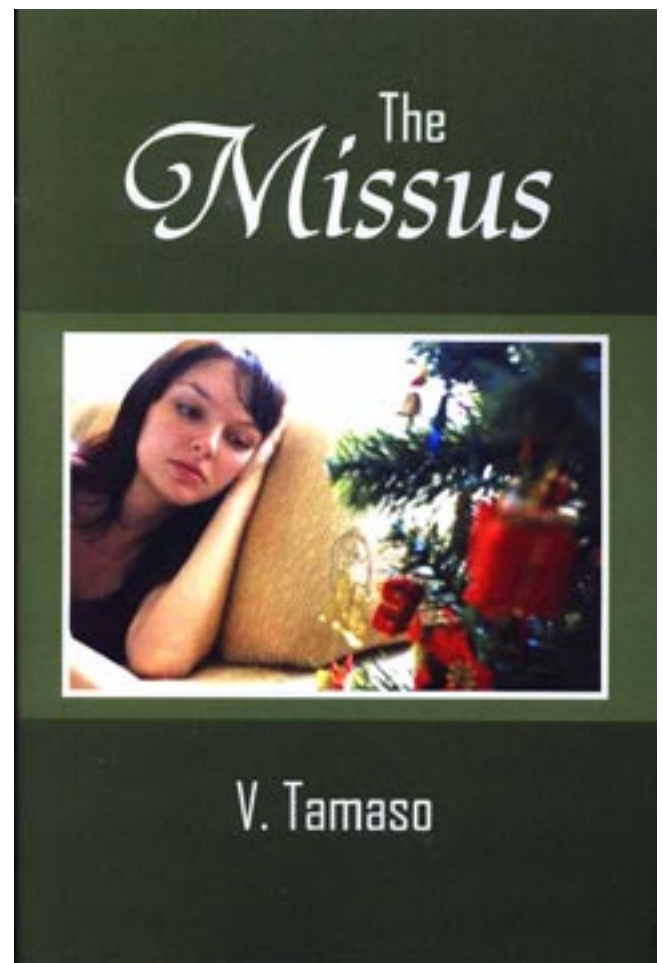
This is the last sign of the zodiac, and the most universal of all. You must find it difficult at times gaining your own sense of individuality. With Chiron entering Pisces on the 9th, your ability to feel other people's pain could be highlighted. Find out how you can attend to your own needs and remain compassionate towards others.

You can book in for Personal Readings. Contact me on 6689-7413, mobile 0457-903-957, email [star-loom@hotmail.com](mailto:star-loom@hotmail.com) or visit my web page <http://nimbin-starloom.com.au>

**Astrology Classes:** an 8-week course 'Soul Mates' Astrology and the Language of Relationships will start on 9th February, Lillifield Community Centre, 10am.

For more info and bookings, please contact me. Astrology classes in Nimbin start on 17th February. Theme: Mapping of the Journey: The Astrological Houses; Thursdays 11am – 12.30pm; please enrol with the Nimbin Open Learning on 6689-1477.

# Intriguing tale of growth and change



## Book Review by Kara Kelly

This paperback, printed in America, is number two in a trilogy tracing the development of a woman's sexuality from childhood to old age.

An ambitious book, written in a truly gifted style of – wait for it folks – real literature. Yes folks, the good news is that an Australian contemporary writer is writing real literature, not computer literature. Finally!

The novel is set in post-World War II semi-rural area Australia, and the reader can't help but compare the enjoyment from this book to a good Colleen McCulloch yarn.

Nimbin-based Tamaso, a long-time contributor to the *Nimbin News*, is a perceptive observer of people and their relationships, and has written nine teenage novels for reluctant readers.

Tamaso paints pictures with very few words – *The Missus* is a must-read.

## Tax Lesson

Tax his land, tax his wage,  
Tax his bed in which he  
lays,  
Tax his tractor, tax his  
mule,  
Teach him taxes is the rule.

Tax his tobacco, tax his  
drink,  
Tax him if he tries to  
think.  
Tax his booze, tax his  
beers,  
If he cries, tax his tears.

Tax his cow, tax his goat,  
Tax his pants, tax his coat.  
Tax his ties, tax his shirts,  
Tax his work, tax his dirt.

Tax his bills, tax his gas,  
Tax his notes, tax his cash.  
Tax him good and let him  
know  
That after taxes he has no  
dough.

Tax his bong, tax his smoke  
Teach him taxes are no joke.  
Tax his car, tax his ass  
Tax the roads he must pass.

Jayne Woolf

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# Film Review: Green Hornet/The Fighter

Reviewed by Stephen Wright

This month you get two movies for the price of one, because sometimes it takes two mediocre films to make one decent one.



*Green Hornet* is frankly, a movie to avoid at all costs.

Superhero movies are always risky, but somehow *Green Hornet* takes a good idea and completely turns it into roadkill. The good idea is the idea about the superhero whose sidekick does all the work and is the brains behind the operation too. The bad idea was getting Seth Rogen to write the script and star in it.

As Britt Reid/The Green

Hornet, Rogen plays a stupid and obnoxious character stupidly and obnoxiously, so we are treated to stupidity and obnoxiousness squared. It's quite an achievement. And if we remember that Rogen is playing to his own stupid and obnoxious script, that gives us stupidity and obnoxiousness cubed.

After being stupid for two hours, *Green Hornet* concludes with a lot of cars exploding. Cameron Diaz is in it too, though there's no reason for her to be there – her somewhat vapid character is completely superfluous. Perhaps she needed a job.

*The Fighter* stars Christian Bale and Mark Wahlberg (pictured) as two half-brothers, Dicky and Micky. Yes, that's what they are really called. Dicky is an ex-boxer who once knocked out a champion, but is now a crack addict and all-round loser. Micky is a no-longer-younger boxer, trained by his brother and managed by his harridan mother who barges around with Mick and Dick's



six or seven harridan sisters in tow.

Ma and Dick continually set Mick up in lucrative fights in which he gets beaten to a pulp. But when Dick ends up in jail, and Mick falls in love with a smart and big-hearted bar girl, Charlene (Amy Adams), he gets a chance to be free of his toxic family and make a go of it as a real fighter.

Hollywood has created a whole genre of boxing films that follow the same general pattern: working class white guy tries to rebuild his wretched life one last time, and has a final epic fight that he nearly loses.

It's something of a fantasy

as most of the great American boxers have been black. But the myth of the stalwart, white, star-crossed blue-collar man with a heart of gold, dies hard.

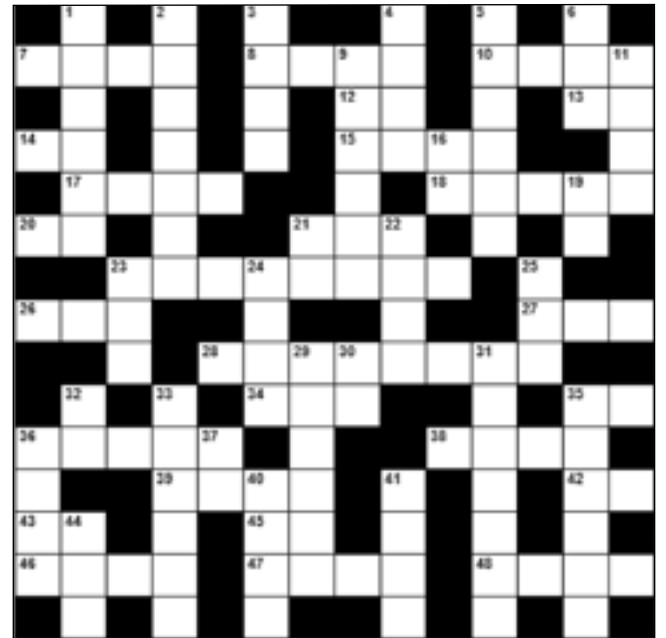
Wahlberg and Bale are fine as the two bro's, though Bale seems to spend much of his time unaccountable trying to speak through duck-lips. *The Fighter* starts off as a tale about how hard it is to get away from toxic families, and slowly drifts off track. About two-thirds of the way through *The Fighter*, I realized that it was going to try and have it both ways, and say that when families are toxic and harmful, they're still cuddly because they're family.

*The Fighter* is getting some attention as an Oscar contender, which probably says something about the quality of Hollywood films at the moment. *The Fighter* is not a bad film at all, but there are better boxing films around. If you feel you seriously need to see a good boxing film, the documentary about Muhammad Ali, *When We Were Kings*, is a better bet.

## Nimbin Crossword

2011-02

by 5ynic



### Across

7. Further amount
8. Sturdy cloth bag
10. (Horse) with white and coloured hair
12. Sacred incantation
13. Indicates recipient of a present
14. Scornful interjection
15. Midday
17. Misplace
18. The things that scare you
20. Next to
21. (Feast to mark the) end of Ramadan
23. Surprised (so that they bolted)
26. Torso underwear
27. Spherical object? Eye socket
28. Regulations
34. Lie
35. Holy person? (abbr.)
36. Adjust one's plumage? Self-congratulate
38. (2,2) All Terrain Armored Transport (effective on Hoth)
39. Immerse
42. Pained expression?
43. Italy's longest river? The red tele-tubby
45. Exist

46. Sense organs
47. Moose
48. Vibrating part of woodwind instrument

### Down

1. 100%
2. Microphone and earphones
3. Pre-nuptial night
4. Protest? Show off features
5. Wise witches?
6. Ponting says we can't
9. Mouth organ
11. Gestures of agreement? When falling asleep
16. Pertaining to?
19. Egyptian sun god
21. Extraterrestrial (init.)
22. Venison
23. Took (examination)
24. Top part of building
25. The most boring lettuce
29. 5c (USA)
30. Consumption
31. Random draw
32. The elder (abbr.)
33. Stop
35. High
36. Used to get 35 down?
37. Negative
40. Assist? Encourage
41. For burning in 36?
44. Cereal plant

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## Reviews from the Crypt

by Stephen Wright

### Kronos Quartet: Pieces of Africa (1992)

The Kronos Quartet – an eclectic and renowned string quartet from the US – have a reputation for being politically committed. At a performance they gave in Brisbane a few years ago, they not only spoke out against the Iraqi War but underlined that sentiment with a mindblowing performance of Jimi Hendrix' version of the 'Star Spangled Banner', arranged for string quartet.

Kronos frequently commissions young composers to create new works, and in the early 1990's released an album of

music newly-created by, and recorded in association with, African composers from Gambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Ghana, Morocco, Sudan and South Africa.

In the second decade of the 21st century world music is everywhere. In 1992, when Kronos released *Pieces of Africa*, it was still something new, and the idea of African composers, black and white, working with the world's premier avant-garde string quartet was an exhilarating one.

It's still a remarkable album, with amazing compositions, showcasing an incredible range of colour. The Kronos' purity of tone brings something very special to a collection of remarkable works. The album seems too short, even



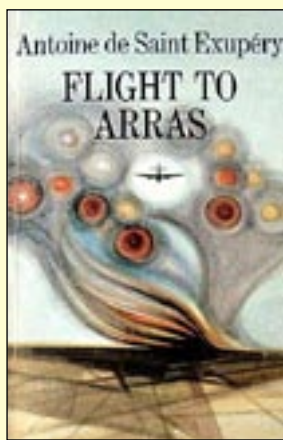
though it clocks in at just under an hour. You just want it to go on and on, for the complex African rhythms to keep on unwinding, endlessly.

### Antoine de Saint-Exupery: Flight to Arras (1942)

Antoine de Saint-Exupery became world famous for his book *The Little Prince*, based on his real-life experience crash-landing in the Sahara in 1935. In 1940 he was a pilot in a reconnaissance squadron in the French Air Force, when France was invaded by the Nazis.

With the Germans in complete control of the skies, and the French ground forces in utter retreat, Saint-Exupery and his colleagues were still sent out on reconnaissance, on what were virtually suicide missions, photographing targets that would never be attacked.

Saint-Exupery wrote many books about his experiences flying, and he was



certain, but miraculously survived each time. In *Flight to Arras*, Saint-Exupery in his hopelessly obsolete aircraft drifts with his crew across the skies of France,

prone to taking on unpredictable and dangerous adventures.

Many times he found himself in situations where death seemed absolutely

while the countryside burns beneath them, expecting any minute to be shot down in flames by German fighters.

Given that he expects to die on this flight, and that there's nothing he can do about it, Saint-Exupery gives himself over to a kind of reverie about mortality, the war, and the experiences that brought him to be sitting in a poorly-designed and defended aircraft over a country at war.

Saint-Exupery disappeared on a mission over the Mediterranean in 1944, presumably shot down. He was a notoriously sloppy pilot, prone to daydreaming. A few years ago, a bracelet was washed up on the African side of the Med, the bracelet Saint-Exupery was wearing when he disappeared, engraved with his own name and that of his wife.

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# Don't You Hate it When...

by **Brendan Hanley**

Ever since a Byron goddess told me years ago that you get warts from using the word "hate" in your vocabulary I have tried to replace it with "dislike intensely", "abhor", "have an aversion to", "loathe" or "can't stand the sight (sound, smell, taste etc.) of". It hasn't been an easy path but I've done pretty well so far.

However, there are times when the right word is the only word ... so without wishing myself a wartsome future, I need to vent the following hate mail and hope it rings a bell with a few readers at least.

Don't you hate it, driving to Lismore from Byron or Nimbin behind some interstate clod doing 50 KPH and slowing down to 35 on every bend? When it says 100

they do 70, 80 they do 50 and in 50 zones they practically reverse into you! Happens to me every flamin' time. Actually Lismore ought to be called "One More" ... because every time you come to a roundabout or crossroad, there's always one more bloody car on the right, going just slow enough to allow the oncoming string of traffic to get in ahead of you ... and when they all get through ... there's always one more ... and then ... I hate it!

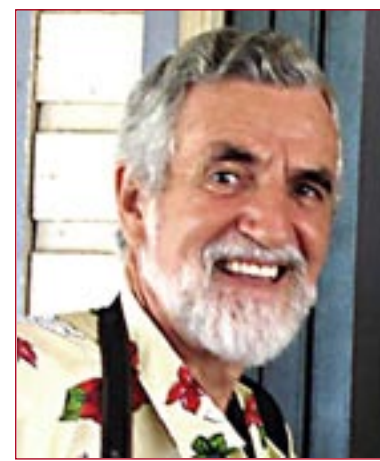
Don't you hate it when someone just gets in the supermarket express lane ahead of you with a trolley packed with enough crap to fill the Salvation Army emergency supply warehouse? Or when you're in a hurry and have just one tin of salmon to check out and the bugger in front of you wants to do the full banking deal, including mortgage

payments, travellers' cheques, interest assessment and maximum cash withdrawal in small bills ... plus book a return flight and two weeks' accom in Casablanca? And they're having a great in-depth conversation with the checkout chick about Troy's party on Saturday night and the emo band at the top pub last Thursday?

And toilets! Don't you hate it when you're standing outside an "engaged" cubicle for ten minutes nearly exploding and somebody else walks in past you, pushes the door open to find it empty and then goes right in, slamming the door in your face? Or when people put the toilet paper on the dispenser with the dangle-down bit flush against the wall instead of out in front so you can't get hold of it? Or worse still when there's no paper at all? Not

to mention having to endure the symbiotic stench of cigarette smoke and yesterday's kofta ball curry combo that turns the cubicle into a lethal gas chamber!

Don't you hate it when someone's big dumb dog comes up and prods you in the crutch with a dripping wet, dribbly nose ... and won't stop! And the owner sits there laughing and saying "Don't mind him ... he won't bite you!" Heaven forbid! Or the little barking rat that comes up to you time and time again and pulls your shoelaces undone ... and you really want to step on the little turd like a cockroach! I like people who keep goldfish, canaries, tarantulas, piranha, crocodiles ... hate dogs that bark all the time, crap on your lawn, chase cars, dig up your garden, piss on your car wheels or fart under the table...



and everyone looks at you as if you're to blame.

Anyway that's a few warts worth of whinge. It'll do for now ... you'll notice I've steered clear of race, religion and politics... oh and media sport coverage and "Today" shows ... mosquitoes, coriander, phone sales calls, Israel's treatment of Palestine, and America in general. Maybe some other time?

## My Mother is a Crazy Dog Lady

by **Beau**, as told to Caroline Ladewig

*Beau's crazy mother is a volunteer carer who brings home all sorts of foster 'kids'.*

### Jackson!

My mums took me and Jackson to the doggie social day at Lennox with Sarah from Paw Power. Mumma C got a special ARRG coat for Jackson to wear so that people would know he was looking for a home.

The social day was so much fun! There were about 70 dogs running around enjoying the beach and each other's company. We even saw Poppy there with her new family. Jackson got to play with some greyhounds. He was just showing off, thinking he could out run them.

Things were going well until a car drove along the beach and Jackson ran after it. A few of the other dogs followed him and there was mad panic amongst the parents of the dogs who had been led astray by Jackson. All the parents were pointing and saying nasty things about the naughty ARRG dog with his 'Adopt Me' jacket on.

Mumma C was starting to worry about what was wrong with Jackson. She decided it was time to get some professional help with his behaviour. Mumma C called in Sarah from Paw Power Dog Training.



Jackson

Mumma C did a few lessons with Jackson and we all noticed how much better behaved he was, even Cleo the cat was happy that he wasn't chasing her anymore!

Mumma C had told Mumma A that the lessons would make him an extremely well behaved dog and then someone would want to give him a loving home for life. I think the real reasons for the lessons were that Mumma C was growing very fond of Jackson and her birthday was just around the corner...

*Animal Rights and Rescue Group is a registered charity formed in 1995, to help the unwanted, injured and neglected animals. They are at 135 Three Chain Road Lismore, phone 02 6622-1881 or online: [www.animalrights.org.au](http://www.animalrights.org.au)*



The doggie social day at Lennox

## Fruit of the vine

by **Terry Beltrane**

### It's a Bitch

Cabernet Sauvignon is often referred to as "The King" of wines, Shiraz, "The Knight" and Pinot Noir "The Queen". Taken from an historical perspective this is probably a bit chauvinistic, but the reality is that Pinot Noir is one of the most 'precocious' of all grape varieties in trying to make quality wine.

Pinot Noir (Pinot) is my favourite grape variety; not for the grape itself, but for the wines that can be made from it. Pinot is the only grape variety permitted, by law, in the making of Burgundy (that's the real Burgundy of France) and is also the principal grape variety in making Champagne. But that's another story.

Of all the grape varieties, Pinot is seen by winemakers as a challenge and evokes an "I have to have a go at this" mentality. To produce quality fruit, vinticulturists, in most years, work over the vineyard 'thinning out' the fruit by cutting away numerous bunches of fruit.

Put crudely, a grape vine is akin to a factory, capable of producing a 'finite quantity' of flavour to be distributed amongst the bunches and as with all grape varieties it's a delicate balance between maximising yields and achieving maximum flavour and balance.

This is especially so with Pinot. This variety gives its best when grown in limestone soils and cool climates; hence we see the better Australian examples coming from



Southern Victoria, the Alpine districts and Tasmania. New Zealand, especially the Otago region of the South Island, produces consistently high quality wines - and you pay for them.

Good Pinot from anywhere does not come cheap, the reason being the necessary amount of work that goes into the vine and the wine to come up with something worthwhile. It's the reason winemakers call it the "Bitch" to work with. Yes!! Chauvinism again.

Commonly, once the fruit is harvested, whole bunches of grapes are placed in a tank/vat which is filled with carbon dioxide and then covered with an air tight lid to prevent any exposure to oxygen. The fruit goes through a process called carbonic maceration where enzymatic activity causes the skin of the fruit to break down allowing the juice to come into contact with the skins and proceed with the alcoholic fermentation.

There are a number of variations to this theme, but generally Pinot is the only variety where the stems of the bunch are not removed from the fruit prior fermentation in the course of making red table wine. The minimal exposure to air (oxidation) contributes to a 'purity' of varietal character and delicacy while the inclusion of stalks adds to the complexity of flavour. Pinot Noir is a thin skinned variety and lacks the tannin/colour concentration of many other red wine grape varieties.

Generally, Pinot is garnet / ruby red in colour, lacking the inky purple blackness that we see in so many Australian reds, though there are some around that have considerable depth of colour reaching into a

deep crimson red; but never 'black'. Accordingly, Pinot is less tannic and full bodied, possessing elegance and delicacy despite alcohol levels of 13 - 13.5% being the norm.

The aroma is more fragrant than powerful and often described as being in the strawberry, cherry spectrum in conjunction with what many tasters describe as being 'gamey'. This 'gamey' is a difficult one to describe, but think along the lines of a walk through the under story leaf litter of Nightcap National Park - a little bit of earthy mushroom and compost.

Pinot is one of the few red wines that are a pleasure to drink without the need for food to balance those aggressive tannins of more full-bodied styles. Good Pinot is soft and velvety in texture and despite its elegance it can possess great complexity, depth and length of flavour. It's the perfect red wine for our subtropical climate and the lighter style foods we eat here, especially vegetarian dishes embellished by lots of herbs.

When I first thought about writing these wine columns, I was asked by friends to make recommendations for particular wines. In doing so I'd like readers to know I don't have any affiliation with any winery and I don't get samples for review (as I once did years ago) so any recommendations I make are based on my personal experience and the fact that most of us are on a tight budget.

Having said that, if you'd like to try some good Pinot Noir without breaking the bank, try DeBortolis Windy Peak and/or Gulf Station. These are consistently great examples of how this difficult variety can give a whole lot of pleasure when it's made by people who know what they're doing.

*If anyone wants info on anything wine, feel free to contact me at [terryb88@tpg.com.au](mailto:terryb88@tpg.com.au)*

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# Taking things at Facebook value

by Jay Stephens

## Part 1

This week, I decided to close my Facebook account. So, of course, I had to tell all my friends ... on Facebook.

The reaction was one of confusion, puzzlement, and in some cases, outrage. Facebook is a great website. It has reconnected me with many people I'd lost touch with over the years, and it has kept me in touch with the lives of my friends and family on the other side of the world for the past three years.

To many people, Facebook is social networking – it's the only social network they have used, and the only one they're ever likely to use. For me, there are three interlinked reasons to call it a day and move on – my personal issues with Facebook, issues with Facebook's design, and ethical issues with the business practices and the "social contract" between Facebook, its advertisers and its users. This month, I'll explain my three main personal issues with facebook.

The first issue is that my behaviour on Facebook is that of an addict: I reward myself for putting it off, I tell myself I'm only going to send one message before logging off, and I feel guilty about the time I've spent using the website. Why this conflict? Unlike (for example) Google, which makes its cash when you leave the site, and who (like you) want you to find what you're looking for as quickly as possible, Facebook want you to stick around and be exposed to as much on-line advertising as possible, and preferably even use embedded services provided by advertisers.

In other words, if I'm trying to use Facebook as an efficient communication tool their interests are in direct conflict with mine. I want to read updates, make an update myself, and leave. Facebook wants me to play games, click around, and waste time. That leaves me feeling used.



The second issue is that my behaviour on Facebook is lazy: I use the website as an excuse not to do things properly. Before Facebook, I used to keep a regular blog. Now, a few "amusing" status updates a week fill that role. Before Facebook, I used to choose the best photos every month, upload them to a dated, labelled folder, with a story accompanying each picture, so I could share it with friends and family.

Now tagging some random pics on a few people's facebook stream is all I seem to manage. Before Facebook, I used to think about who would want to know about something we'd done, and I'd write an email to those people. Now I pump out a status update to my 200 FB friends, of whom about 10 will want to read what I've written. It's a tool for spamming your friends in a way they would never put up with using email.

The third issue is that my behaviour on Facebook is deeply reactive. Because my FB friends are lazy too, and because they too treat the site addictively, their lifestreams are filled with random pictures, links, and stories.

Of course, this is a good thing – it means I'm exposed to interesting stuff that I wouldn't have found for myself. It's also a very bad thing: I find myself reacting and responding to my FB friends, and sometimes even forgetting why I logged in to start with. It leaves me distracted and confused before I've finished my morning coffee.

Next month, I'll explain my technical and design beefs with Facebook, and why I find many other social networking options better designed and more user-friendly. By then I will have deleted my Facebook account, and expect to be happier for it.

## Nimbin Bushwalkers enter their 6th healthy year



Ascent of the dunes at Moreton Bay

by Len Martin (who's just entered his 78th year)

Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself? Seems like only yesterday that the club was formed, but it was five years ago, February 2006, when we enjoyed our first walk together – the McPherson Trail, Mt Nardi – led by the redoubtable Wal Davies.

Since then we've maintained a regular annual program of two weekend walks and one mid-week walk every month from February to November inclusive, plus, usually, a single walk in December. The program includes one or two camping weekends and occasional back-packing. Twice in recent years some of us have spent a week camping and walking on Moreton Island.



Len Martin on Bald Rock

A highlight of our 2009 season was several days camping and walking in the spectacular country of Bald Rock National Park in the granite belt.

But we routinely enjoy spectacular scenery in our immediate neighbourhood, as in our December walk on the historic Nightcap track. Despite all the recent rain, only a few walks have been cancelled because of bad weather.

We're healthy in that the club is maintaining a good active membership, while individual members are healthy because all that walking exercise does wonders - reducing the risk of cancer, heart disease, diabetes, dementia - you name it - exercise protects against it. But apart from all that, it is so enjoyable to walk, wander, ramble with friends, people with great expertise, enthusiasts - bird-watching, orchid-watching, waterfall watching, photography, companionship, swimming in magical swimming holes.

Also we are blessed with some great walk leaders, bods who really know the country and who lead us into the most wonderful out of the way places of this most wonderful region. Our walks range from the very easy to the somewhat demanding, but give people the opportunity to get into places they might never reach as individuals.

We are affiliated to *The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc.*, which organises our insurance, provides an organisational framework for our club, guidelines for walk procedures and so forth. Our annual membership fee of \$15 is largely to cover insurance costs. Over most of our existence, we have given illustrated monthly reports of our activities in



In the spa at Boonoo Boonoo

our favourite paper *The Nimbin GoodTimes*, and these can easily be found in the NGT on-line archives.

February can be very hot and humid, and after all the recent wet and coolth, we are not acclimatised to such summer conditions. So this 2011 February we offer three easy walks – grade 2, suitable for beginners, two of them at the beach, and one close to home with a special swimming hole – so here is the opportunity to test the water, literally and metaphorically. We look forward to seeing you. Visitors are charged \$5 to cover insurance, which goes towards the full membership fee if they decide to join.



In the great cave on Mulgum Creek

## Walks Program February

**Saturday 12th February**  
Tallow Beach, Tallow Creek to Cosy Corner, Byron Bay

Leader Eleanor Edwards (6672-3894)

Grade 2 2.5h return. A wander through coastal heathland, Arakwal National Park & a stroll along Tallow Beach.

Meet 9am Nimbin Car Park, 10.30am Scott Street, Byron Bay in front of the Oasis Resort.

Bring 4WDs, lunch and water. Walk will depend on weather conditions over preceding days.

**Sunday 20th February**  
Dorrobbee Grass, followed by a mystery swimming hole

Leader Michael Smith (6689-9291)

Grade 2 2.5h. A 500m walk around Dorrobbee Grass near Dunoon (interpretative signs and views) followed by a swim at a local hippy swimming hole on Terania Creek.

Meet 9am Nimbin Car Park, 9.30am The Channon Pub, 9.50am Dorrobbee Grass, corner of Dunoon & Fraser Roads. Bring hat, water, lunch and swimmers.

Secretary, Len Martin (pteropus42@smartchat.net.au)  
<http://nimbinbushwalker.byethost7.com>

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## Nimbin Garden Club Notes

by Gil Schilling

### Bamboo Farm Visit

After a less than 'normal' summer break the Nimbin garden club swings back into action this month.

The first meeting for 2011 will be held at Pam Craven's bamboo farm on Saturday 19th February. Starting time for the visit will be 2pm, and Pam's address is Lot1,



Pam Craven with her Buddha Belly bamboo

Upper Tunttable Falls Road, Nimbin.

Pam's property features many different species of useful bamboo from many parts of the world, including a well laid-out bamboo plantation (pictured above).

The afternoon will be an opportunity for members, friends and newcomers to meet and catch up on what everyone has been up to over the past few months.

As usual, members are requested to bring a fold-up chair, a mug and a small plate of something tasty to share.

A swap table will also operate where members can bring along something surplus from their garden, such as potted seedlings, bulbs, cuttings or home-made produce.

So dear reader, if you are slightly curious or want to meet others with a gardening interest (and you don't have to be particularly expert or skilled) you are most welcome to just turn up and check us out. Members' guests, visitors and prospective new members are always very welcome.

By the time you read this, members should have received the club's quarterly newsletter, which will have news of further meetings and events being planned by the club. For more information please also see next month's edition of *The GoodTimes*.

For more information about the club, please contact either Michael (6689-7193) or Denise (6689-9324).



## Devotees back on hallowed turf

Photo by Paul LeBars

It's a Sunday morning congregation that would be the envy of many a church.

Social bowlers are flocking from far and wide, back to the Nimbin Bowling Club, now that its green has been almost fully repaired, ready for a year of service.

The eastern gutter area has been temporarily

taped off, to allow hundreds of plugs of lawn to take hold, but it should be playable again soon.

The penants team is now training in earnest, keen to make a good impression in the NRDBA zone competition this year. And well they may, after a disappointing performance in their first inter-Club trial game.

Word from the Treasurer is that the accountant was pleased with the club's half-year figures, thanks to the support from members, especially the volunteers who have been putting in to keep the club going.

Best wishes to bar assistant Stacey, who has started maternity leave, with Robyn taking over her shifts behind the bar.

The popular Karaoke Nights (last, shown at left) are starting again on Saturday 12th February, so bring your most romantic repertoire for the Valentine's Day themed night.



## Writing for the children's market

Roald Dahl once said "If you want to remember what it's like to live in a child's world, you've got to get down on your hands and knees and live like that for a week."

Sage advice from one of the world's most successful children's authors, but not particularly easy counsel to follow.

So just how does one embark on a writing career? Where do you start if you want to write children's fiction and what do you have to do to get published?

Tristan Bancks (pictured), popular author of children's and young adult fiction, will be running a two-day 'Writing for the Children's Market' workshop which will answer those questions and more.

The workshop will explore both the craft and the business of writing for children. Discover the tools and techniques used by established children's writers to build a story worthy of publication.

Learn about the difference



between trade and educational publishers, the roles of the agent and the publisher, and how to run a creative (and profitable) writing business.

Held at the Byron Community Centre over the weekend of 19th - 20th February, the workshop will cost \$135 for Northern Rivers Writers Centre members, and \$160 for non-members.

Tristan Bancks is the author of the Mac Slater, *Coolhunter* series (Random House

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Australia, Simon & Schuster US), the Nitboy series (Laguna Bay) and YA novel, *it's yr life*. See more at [www.tristanbancks.com](http://www.tristanbancks.com)

His workshops regularly sell out, so be sure to register immediately to avoid disappointment. Bookings can be made by calling NRWC on 6685-5115 or emailing Siboney Duff on [siboney@nrwc.org.au](mailto:siboney@nrwc.org.au)

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### Nimbin Crossword Solution See Page 23



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# Fishing out wide



Pix & 4kg snapper

by Pixie, Fishing reporter

With all the rain and flooding happening lately, if you want to catch big predator fish you need to be fishing out wide, away from all the murky water.

The Nimbin Heads Fishing Team put a team of eight guys together with that in mind, so Tim, Pix, Ashley, Alex, Simon, Scotty and Daz headed out on the open sea, with Trout missing the boat – bad luck Trout.

The seas were good, with a half-metre swell and a 10-knot wind, but it was raining. Once we got through the bar, we were in the clouds, with drizzling rain for six hours, not being able to see land or any other boats, but when you

start catching fish, nothing else matters.

About 20 clicks out, we dropped a few lines to test the current and catch a few snapper, with your humble fishing reporter setting the pace, landing a nice 4kg snapper. Daz started burleying early, so he wasn't having a good day. The current was in our favour, so out wide we head, towards the shelf. Our plan was to target kingfish and sampson fish.

With Daz asleep in the cabin, and Trout still at home, there was plenty of room for us six guys to hook into some quality fighting fish, with Ashley, Tim, Scotty and Alex all hooking onto a great fish fight, landing sampson fish around 7kg and pulling them up from around 60 metres deep. And it's still



Tim and sampson



Scotty & 7 1/2 kg snapper



Alex and sampson

raining, but it's all good.

Then Pix and Simon have another great fight landing quality kingfish, and then it's back to the bottom and we all hookup to big sampsons. What a great day's fishing out wide, with Scotty taking the kitty for the biggest fish of the day with his 7 1/2 kg sampson fish.

Our annual 16-day Fraser Island fishing trip is getting closer, and it looks like we have 12 guys, three boats and five 4WDs heading off for a great fishing trip. So get your finances together guys, as there are only 118 sleeps to go. **Tight lines guys.**



## Soccer Sign-On Time

It's the time of year when all the kids are heading back to school. The festive season is long forgotten and those of us involved in sports administration have got our eye on the ball once more. It is time to sign-on for soccer 2011.

Everyone had a lot of fun last year. There was a great positive vibe around the club. Our teams did really well and the clubhouse is a kick away from the completion of its new roof. We're expecting great things for this season.

The most important thing at this stage is that everyone

signs up. As per last year, people need to come with their money to be able to register. Last year a couple of teams came unstuck because potential players held back from signing on until they knew who else was playing. This meant we did not get teams in some of the older junior groups. Players were left disappointed.

This year, just come and sign-on. If there are not enough people in your age group, your fees will be fully refunded. In teams with too many people for the number of positions available, priority

will be given to those players in the team last year and then in order of sign-on. So get there early to secure a place.

Training is expected to begin in mid-February for the juniors. Look out for more information in school newsletters, posters and on notice boards around town. The seniors are already having a run on Thursday evenings at 6pm.

Of course new volunteers are welcome. There are a variety of jobs available big and small, come and get involved. It is what makes us a vital community group and a successful club.

### SIGN-ON DATES

• **Saturday 12th February**, 10am - 2pm at the Town Hall.

• **Sunday 19th February**, 10am - 2pm at the club grounds.

The detail of the fees are still being worked out at the time of writing, but will be in the vicinity of last year. If you have any queries call Simone on 6689-7142.

Looking forward to a great 2011. See you all at sign-on. **Go the mighty Headers!**

## Shared habits - shared success

by David Hoffmann, David's Health & Lifestyle Studios, Goonellabah and Ballina

One of the best things we can do when we are looking at achieving a goal or a change in your life is look at advice and help or guidance from someone who has either achieved what you want or someone who wants similar goals. Even opting to have that person become your 'training partner' can get you going.

One common thread I have noticed that makes people more likely to succeed is exercising with a partner. People seem to find it easier to be more consistent with exercise and eating goals if someone is participating with them.

Some of the good points of having a partner or family involved are:

1. If you have your family following your healthy eating pattern there will be less to tempt you in the house food wise.
2. It will give you someone

who you are accountable to, and really we deep down do not want to disappoint that person.

3. Communicate the times or areas that you may struggle with to that person and you may find they have credible and practical solutions to the issue.
4. If you give them tools or options to help you they can keep you going through the times when you hit a 'hick-up'.

I was recently reminded just how hard it is when your partner is not on the same wave length as you or your aims. Often a partner will offer you an option (especially food) that will be against what you want. More likely it is something that they may want to do, so they do not feel as bad

doing it. A classic is snacks or biscuits. A partner may offer you one, even though they know you are looking at changes, and really the message is that if you have it, it is alright for them to have it as well. Don't be scared to say no – they are looking for the strength in your conviction.

The old saying 'A problem shared is a problem halved' is a great philosophy in this situation. Remember try not to become dependant on that person, otherwise things could go wrong.

Have an active input in return and through this the power of the partnership will grow.

### Saying of the month:

*A true friend is someone who thinks you are a good egg, even though you have cracks.*

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Pickup Points	Nimbin Central	Nimbin Main St.	Coffee Camp	Goolmangar School	Goolmangar Store	Blakebrook Interchange	RRHS	Lismore Transit
Nimbin - Lismore	7.50	7.52	8.03	8.10	8.14	8.20	8.35	8.50
Mon - Fri	8.55	9.00	9.10	9.15	9.18			9.35
	3.22	3.25	3.35	3.40	3.45			4.10
		4.30	4.40	4.45	4.49			5.00
Mon. & Thu. Only		12.45	12.55	1.00	1.05	1.15	1.17	
School Holidays		9.00	9.10	9.15	9.18			9.35
		3.25	3.30	3.40	3.44			4.00
Pickup Points	Lismore Transit	RRHS	Blakebrook Interchange	Goolmangar Store	Goolmangar School	Coffee Camp	Nimbin Main St.	Nimbin Central
Lismore - Nimbin	7.00	7.10	7.14	7.25	7.30	7.35	7.40	7.50
Mon - Fri	8.00		8.23	8.25	8.35	8.45		8.50
	2.35	2.40	2.45	2.48	2.55	3.00	3.10	3.15
	3.20	3.35	3.50	3.55	4.00	4.05	4.15	4.20
Mon. & Thu. Only	12.00	12.03	12.10	12.12	12.15	12.25	12.35	
School Holidays	2.35		2.48	2.55	3.00	3.10		
	3.25		3.44	3.50	3.57	4.00		
Pickup Points	Gwynne Road	Mitchell Road	Oakey Creek Interchange	Blakebrook Interchange	RRHS	Trinity Bay 2 Interchange	Lismore Transit	
School days only	7.43	7.51	8.00	8.20	8.35	8.40	8.52	
Georgina - Lismore								
Pickup Points	Lismore Transit	Trinity Bay 2 Interchange	RRHS	Blakebrook Interchange	Oakey Creek Interchange	Mitchell Road	Gwynne Road	
School days only	3.25	3.35	3.50	3.50	4.15	4.28	4.36	
Lismore - Georgina								

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Ref.#1337



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Ref.#1338



## UKI \$450,000



**Beautiful Acres in Uki**  
Just over 7 1/2 rolling acres with a gorgeous permanent creek running through the property. Great infrastructure already in place... underground power, water tanks, sheds, tack room, septic, plantings, pond and fencing. A mixture of paddocks, rainforest pockets and the famous Uki view of Mt Warning, Mt Uki and The Sisters from the ridgeline. This property is very interesting and has a lot of appeal with established gardens! There is also a livable dwelling whilst you build.  
Ref.1353



## URBENVILLE \$149,000



**Acres of Lush Land**  
There are 2 natural springs running through this quality 7 acre property. Huge partial spring dam (12 feet deep), shed with café curtains, mains power connected, phone available, soil- basalt/black/partial red and fully fenced. 23,000 litre water tank with pump, old van with shower and air conditioner. A hot tub (Cedar) in working condition, this property would be an ideal existing getaway, or put a cabin on it and live the dream. Urbenville has a hospital, bowling club, daycare centre, shops and is a village surrounded by lots of water and natural beauty.  
Ref.#1343



## BLUE KNOB \$535,000



**Family Life around the Pool**  
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Ref.#1335



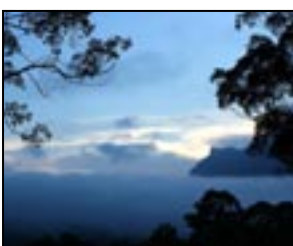
## MT. BURRELL \$800,000



**Bio-Dynamic Farm, Options Galore**  
60 acres!! 2 very private houses with their own access, dam and special feel. Great views of the Border Ranges, and wonderful walking tracks. Only 5 minutes to Mount Burrell for all your shopping needs, 5 minutes Sphinx Rock Café, 20minutes to Uki or Nimbin. One house is a solid 2 storey, timber and corrugated iron in construction. It has 3 good sized bedrooms, timber floors, outside shower and inside laundry and bath, composting toilet. The property is on full electricity. The 2nd house is a 2 bed western red cedar home with lovely decks and a gorgeous feel, with underground power and septic system... water infrastructure abounds. There are also 3 very liveable caravans with their own decks and shared amenities area.  
Ref.#1327



## MT. BURRELL \$490,000



**Picturesque Paradise**  
100 Acres of pristine paradise perched high on a ridge near the supply centre of Mount Burrell. Views to live for from the Border Ranges to the iconic Sphinx Rock, Mount Burrell and the world heritage listed Nightcap Range. Enjoy your piece of paradise from the back deck of the rustic bush cabin which sits high to take in every aspect of the views and the abundant wildlife. Listen to the bell-birds whiling away the hours with a nice glass of wine in hand. There is plenty of useable timber on the land with around 10 acres of clearing near the cabin. A gorgeous creek meanders through the bottom of the property with rainforest re-growth abundant. Just a 15 minute drive to the colourful village of Nimbin and under an hour to Coolangatta international airport means paradise is closer than you think.  
Ref.#1320



## UKI \$499,000



**Private Getaway**  
Nestled at the base of Mount Warning is a hidden treasure waiting to be discovered! Set on 5 very private and serene rainforest acres, sits a lovely 4 bedroom Queenslander full of character and charm. Lovely hoop pine polished timber flooring throughout, original features, high ceilings and tongue and groove walls. Enjoy the birdlife from the expansive decks where you can relax and entertain all year round. Awesome panoramic views from the top of the block. Just 5 minutes to the lovely village of Uki and only 45 minutes to Gold Coast and its beaches. This is a great weekender or the perfect tree change opportunity!  
Ref.#1319



## LARNOOK \$85,000



**4 Affordable Acres**  
Located on the company-titled M.O. community Elysian Farm Larnook, this north-east facing, frost free property is a fantastic opportunity to get into the property market at a very affordable price. The one bedroom council approved cabin needs a small amount of work to finish or to extend. Grow your own veggies, run a few chooks and live the self-sustainable lifestyle you have always wanted in peace and quiet. Water is not an issue with 2 huge communal dams and tanks gravity feeding water directly to all the properties on the community! Phone also available. Only 30 minutes to Lismore and 10 minutes to Cawongla, this would make a fantastic weekender, permanent residence or rental investment!  
INSPECT TODAY!  
Ref.#1310



## LARNOOK \$299,000



**Bliss at Billen Cliffs**  
Enjoy the serenity of this magical north facing, council approved, 3 bed mudbrick and timber home. On 2 very private acres in the strata titled Billen Cliffs Village Larnook. Solar power (electricity readily available), 2 wood burners, 2 x 5000 gallon water tanks, 2 springfed dams, fruit trees and a veggie patch. This very well organized village boasts its own Arts and Crafts centre with studios, a hall for social gatherings and monthly produce market, and a huge entertainment hall. This highly sought after village is a nature sanctuary (no cats or dogs allowed) and so natural wildlife abounds. The home is a short walk to school bus pick up point. Only five minutes drive to Cawongla general store and approximately 20-25 minutes to Lismore, Nimbin and Kyogle.  
Ref.#1226



## NIMBIN \$165,000+



**The "Coffee House" Cafe**  
Want to get into the thriving Nimbin café scene? Check this out. The well established "Coffee House" has the valued reputation as arguably making the best coffee in Nimbin with its exclusive pride into this thriving little Alfresco café and the rights to Zentveld coffee. The owners have poured lots of love and time has come for them to hang up their aprons. The café seats 30+ people and has capacity to expand its beautiful home style cuisine with night trade. Long lease in place and showing great figures, this could be the lifestyle change you've been looking for. With parking for up to 8 vehicles out the back and good storage facilities it really is just a case of move in get trained up and start making some money in one of the busiest tourist towns in Australia.  
Ref.#1265

