

# The Floating Gardens of Sphinx Rock



by Michael Balderstone

In this hot and dry spell, with gardens needing watering and the wildlife hungry for the worms attracted to wet patches, here's an idea if you have a dam close to home.

The foam boxes are lined with shadecloth to stop the dirt falling through. At first we had them floating around the dam with strings attached to haul 'em in like fish traps for picking before dinner,

but the boxes float a bit deep for a lot of plants. So now they are just touching the water on buoyant frames (mostly from the tip).

Some plants love the water so much they are growing across it like cress. Others need to be up as high as possible.

The great advantage has been no need for watering, ever, and so far no predators at all have discovered them.

And gardening waist-deep in water is a real pleasure on a hot day!

## Nimbin's GreenBank has lots to offer



### BUSINESS PROFILE

Well, we're still here after those hard winter months, and despite the GFC which everyone says is just now hitting us in our sleepy little village in the hills.

We continue to expand our range, in response to our customers' needs and desires, and we now stock a large range of Steiner-inspired art and craft supplies, including pencils, crayons and modelling wax.

The allure of these products lies in their simplicity, and their pigments, which are truly unmatched. Unleash your child's latent artist by investing in some quality artist's tools from *The GreenBank*.

We are also about to launch the new Makedo range, which inspires recycling by providing the tools to turn many of your waste materials into new and exciting games and toys.

This is a great tool for open-ended imaginative



play for kids of all ages, and we look forward to sharing it with you in the coming weeks.

We continue to stock our popular range of stainless steel tiffins, cups and water bottles; allergy-friendly cleaning products and Earth-friendly cleaning tools; locally made kids' toys, gift cards, shopping bags, jewellery and more; as well as the ever-expanding therapeutic ranges from Naturally Nourished and Tea Medica. Tea is brewing all day every day, giving you an opportunity to sample the different blends, before you buy.

*The GreenBank* is fast gaining a reputation as the place to go for unique and inspiring gifts and we encourage you to spend your money locally on products you can trust.

With Solstice and Christmas just around the corner, you may well find that perfect gift

here at *The GreenBank*, saving yourself a drive to Lismore or beyond, not to mention enjoying a much more pleasurable shopping experience!

We also welcome a new practitioner, Tom, on Friday afternoons. Tom employs a unique and gentle form of therapeutic acupuncture, bringing several decades of experience to the therapy room.

If you need an energy reset, then Tom's the man for you. We continue to offer a tasty menu of skilled and experienced mind, body and spirit practitioners six days per week.

Drop in some time to see what's on offer, and make the commitment to take some time out for you.

Rebecca, Kylie (pictured above) and Lishia thank the Nimbin community for your continued support, and look forward to sharing a cuppa with you some time.



## Bush Theatre News

by Daniel Soler

It was a most heart-warming sight on Saturday morning of the 27th October. There were a dozen or so men and women, arched back, pulling vines or kneeling to the ground digging weeds (not that kind!). This brought to me the *raison d'être* of Nimbin; the kind of friendship that cared, admired and respected (the three ingredients for love). This group of people, gardening enthusiasts, volunteered and donated their Saturday morning to the Bush Theatre. The garden and surrounding grounds all the way to the old bridge needed attention and despite the dedicated help from Andrew Mangan (BT official greenkeeper), the weeds and vines were getting out of hand. After a few hours of back-breaking exercise interrupted by a well-deserved morning tea, the bad growth was mostly eliminated. I cannot thank the Nimbin Garden Club enough for taking the initiative and especially those members who gave their precious time to us (Daniel and Belinda) and the Bush Theatre.

The roller derby night was a great success and although the amount raised was reasonable, the patrons who attended were not cheated out of their 'sonnant and trebuchant' (French slang for money). The girls gave a most amazing display of acrobatics and speed on the floor of the cinema; they were soon joined by our 'Paralympians' Mick and Rainer, who also gave us a glimpse at what it is to manoeuvre the wheel chairs amidst a speeding rough and tumble flock of birds with aliases like 'Amazon'. Everyone concerned had a ball and



it was so pleasing to see whole families, including pet dogs, enjoy themselves thoroughly. The venue was respected, the alcohol consumption was within reason, the food was praised and our effort to please was rewarded with warm thanks and congratulations on our input into the life of Nimbin.

Sunday 25th November at 6pm Voices for Change

celebrating Global Day of Consciousness with the maestro of classical guitar Bob Oort performing for the occasion. Also on the same evening, the Nimbin Environment Centre will be showing at the usual time 7.30pm, the film 'The edible city' / grow the revolution'.

We are looking forward to the Women's Dinner and Film Night planned by the NNIC on Wednesday, 28th November. This will be a women's only gathering.

There is also a young people's cabaret being planned by Lisa Doherty, date to be confirmed. It will be most probably a No Alcohol night.

Kerriane Cox will be graciously present and active at the CD launch of Sisters Healing Earth on Saturday 8th December. This is also a No Alcohol night.

To finish, let me tell you that I have met beautiful people in Nimbin. This town can shed its current image and reinvent itself as a clever creative cultural hub. There are a lot of talented and creative people that are ready to offer their talent and time to make this village the jewel in the crown of the rainbow. Writers, poets, comedians, sculptors, painters, dancers, singers, filmmakers, musicians, magicians, actors and more... *We can do it, yes we can.*

## Bush Theatre screen previews

Reviewed by Belinda Marsh

### NOVEMBER PROGRAM

#### Arbitrage

Friday 9th / Saturday 10th at 7.30pm \$10

A New York hedge-fund manager is the portrait of success in both business and family. But Robert's carefully constructed world is about to come crashing down as the depths of his fraud are uncovered. Stars Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon and Tim Roth. Rated M.



#### Marley

Friday 16th / Saturday 17th at 7.30pm \$10

Marley is a detailed chronological account of the life and times of the legendary musician Bob Marley, brought to us by those who knew him best—his family and friends. There are detailed insights and never-before-seen footage, and, of course, his music. Rated M.



#### Searching for Sugar Man

Friday 23rd / Saturday 24th at 7.30pm \$10

In the late 1960s, a couple of Detroit producers loved Rodriguez's music and recorded an album. His records didn't sell, so he disappeared. But some bootlegs of his music made it to South Africa where they became a phenomenon. This docu-movie follows two fans who are trying to track down their hero. Rated M.



#### Edible City (Grow The Revolution)

Sunday 25th

Music from 6pm and documentary from 7.30pm Cafe open for dinner from 6pm Bob Oort, guitar virtuoso, will be performing from 6pm for International Global Consciousness Day to raise funds for the many charities he supports.

At 7.30pm the Nimbin Environment Centre will be showing this fascinating documentary.

#### Women's Film Night

Wednesday 28th

Tickets and info available from the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre.

#### I Wish

Friday 30th / Saturday 1st december at 7.30pm \$10

Two young brothers live hundreds of kilometres apart; Ryu lives with his dad, and Koichi lives with his mum. Koichi hears of a new bullet train that will bring him closer to the brother he misses. But Koichi and Ryu also want their family reunited. The brothers hatch a plan that involves making a wish at the crossing of the two new trains. Rated PG. Japanese with English subtitles.



#### Coming soon

Shadow Dancer; Sisters Healing Earth with Kerriane Cox; Safety Not Guaranteed; The Wedding Party.

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"First, do no harm"

# Free tea for hayfever trial

by Rebecca Ryall,  
Tea Medica

If you suffer from hayfever, sinusitis or seasonal allergies then you are just the person I'm looking for!

Tea Medica is working on some new therapeutic formulations for hayfever, sinusitis or seasonal allergies, and I'd like your feedback.

Though the calendar tells us it's springtime, at times you'd be forgiven for thinking summer has come early while at other times it's tempting to light the fire again to ward off the chill.

This time of year is pure hell for those who suffer from hayfever and seasonal allergies. Hayfever is an immune system response to a threat from an allergen, releasing a chemical called histamine, which is the cause of the symptoms.

Occasional sufferers can reach for an antihistamine pill to find symptomatic relief, but for the small proportion of the population required to take antihistamines long-term the side effects of antihistamines can be nearly as debilitating as



the condition itself – impaired thinking, drowsiness, altered sense of taste and smell, anxiety, depression and even loss of libido.

While the key to kicking allergies is more complex than popping a pill, symptoms of hayfever can be minimised using a good herbal mix of anti-inflammatories and antihistamines, decongestants and immune boosters.

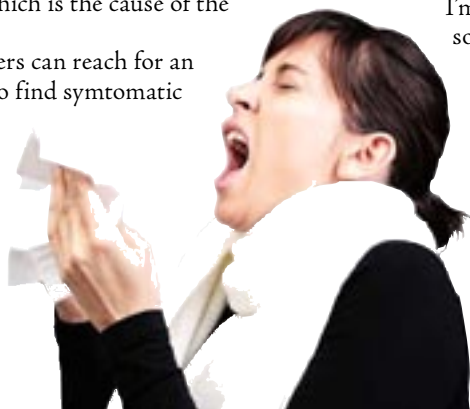
I'm seeking people to test out my new hayfever mix, and provide feedback on its efficacy.

Drop into The GreenBank for your free sample of the new hayfever mix – a specially formulated blend of herbs which may assist in the relief of symptoms of hayfever, such as runny nose, sneezing and sore and itching eyes.

This is the first of many opportunities to advance test my new products. In the coming months I aim to add a potency mix for men, and a menopause relief mix for women.

I'm also keen to start mixing up some new chai blends. Keep an eye out for information on how you can get involved in these local product trials, or better still drop into The GreenBank for a cup of tea and see where I'm up to with the new range.

I'm in the shop most Mondays and Thursdays and ready and able to mix you up a custom blend to suit your individual needs.



## Cook's Corner with Carolynne

### Lemon Meringue Tarts



#### Ingredients

##### Sweet Pastry

250gm plain flour  
50gm almond meal  
120gm unsalted butter  
(softened)  
80gm pure icing sugar  
(sieved)  
1 egg (lightly beaten)

##### Lemon Curd Filling

Grated rind and juice of 2 lemons  
2 eggs (beaten)  
59gm butter  
1 cup sugar  
5 egg whites

##### Meringue

5 egg whites  
110gm caster sugar

#### Method

##### Sweet Pastry

Pre-heat oven to 160c, sift flour and a pinch of salt together, combine with almond meal and set aside.  
Beat butter and sugar in an

electric mixer until pale and creamy, add egg and beat well. Add flour mixture and mix until dough starts to form (1 to 2 minutes).

Turn onto a lightly-floured surface, knead lightly until smooth, wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 10 minutes. Roll on a lightly floured surface to 3 to 4mm thick and line 10 x 10cm diameter fluted tart tins and blind bake to light golden (10 to 15 minutes).

##### Lemon Curd

Put all ingredients into a glass basin over a saucepan of simmering water, stir until sugar is dissolved and continue heating, stirring from time to time until curd thickens, cool, fill pastry cases with curd, set aside.

##### Meringue

Whisk egg whites and sugar in a heatproof bowl over gently simmering water

until sugar dissolves (2 to 3 minutes), transfer to a bowl of an electric mixer and whisk on medium speed till glossy and soft peaks form (2 to 3 minutes), spoon over lemon curd and using the back of a fork make peaks in the meringue.

Using a blow torch, lightly scorch meringue, or place under grill until lightly golden, sprinkle meringue with a few strands of finely shredded zest and serve.

Carolynne and Garry invite you to join them on the first of the Contented Tummy's night dining. 6.30pm Saturday 1st December.

Please make bookings on 6689-0590.

'Til next month enjoy.  
– Carolynne.

For information, phone Carolynne at the Contented Tummy Cafe Nimbin, phone 6689-0590.

# Weave & Mend Festival 2012

by Granny Breath Weaver,  
Wednesday Women Weavers

Everyone who came enjoyed themselves. Sharing knowledge and skills, camping out under the stars, a campfire, stories and songs creates an ambient relaxed atmosphere that attracted people from all over and from all walks of life.

Fortunately for us, we never attract large crowds... small is beautiful... and we are only a small group of women weavers.

Many thanks to all those who came who helped and who enjoyed. Particular thanks goes to Nimbin Community Centre, the Nimbin School of Arts who sponsor us each year, and to the Hemp Embassy for delivering our most essential item... firewood.



Photos: Woman with a camera



## Food Paradise

Estate, between 10am and 11am (9am start QLD time) at 753 Clothiers Creek Road, Clothiers Creek, and Tropical Fruit World between 12.30pm and 1.30pm (11.30am start QLD time) at 29 Duranbah Road Duranbah NSW.

### Tweed's biggest dinner party – Friday 30th November, 6pm – 10pm

The festival's premier event, Foodie Friday is set to be Tweed's biggest dinner party, staged at Murwillumbah's picturesque showgrounds.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get a group of friends and work colleagues together to share and sample the many flavours of Tweed's restaurants, cafes and food aficionados. Each stall will prepare their signature \$5 and \$10 sample plates, the bar will offer a range of beer

and wine, guest chefs will demonstrate their skills and the atmosphere will hum with live entertainment by Lil' Fi and other local musicians.

### Sumptuous Saturday – Saturday 1st December

Sumptuous Saturday is all about finding your inner chef, rolling up your sleeves and learning the art of food preparation under the guidance of local chefs and food experts.

From Vietnamese cooking, French high teas and summer-time canapés to preservative free sausage making, cheese making and creating designer coffee, you are guaranteed to finesse your culinary skills, find friendship and laughter and feast on fine fare.

For more details go to: [www.tweedfoodiefest.com.au](http://www.tweedfoodiefest.com.au)



The Tweed Foodie Fest is a sumptuous celebration of local food, bringing together the tastes, talents and producers of the region.

This four-day event includes the screening of a 'foodie flick', a signature dinner party, a range of cooking and food preparation workshops and local farm tours.

### Foodie Flick – Thursday 29th November

The festival opens on Thursday evening at the Regent Cinema in Murwillumbah with the NSW movie premiere of the feature-length documentary, 'Ingredients'. The film reveals the people behind the movement to bring good food back to the table and health back to our communities. At the end of the film, a panel of local food experts will be on hand to discuss the film and relevance to our local region.

### Foodie Friday – Friday 30th November

Start your Friday foodie indulgence with a special Tweed Foodie Fest tour through Madura Tea

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## Living in the Woodonbong Hills

by Marilyn Scott

Well, we're moving closer to the end of this infamous year 2012. Only eight weeks left – how's it been for you?

I'm eternally grateful that this passage of time, 2011 and 2012, has been spent here, cocooned and nurtured in the Woodonbong Hills. It's a time I'll never forget.

I spent my early years in Sydney. I'm grateful for that – it taught me about community. Strange, you may say, learning about community in a big city. Living in the inner city, people weren't rich in golden treasures, but rich in heart and feeling, friendship and loyalty.

I remember those times fondly – it was like living in a big, extended family, where everyone was welcome. That inner city enclave is now Darling Harbour... yes, changes, changes, changes... now golden treasures have superseded warm handshakes and spirited friendships.

All of Life moves in cycles – I've experienced this on a much deeper level now, living here amongst this magical splendour. It is Magick – real, pure Magick. Every moment of every day Life dances, manifests to us, through so many exquisite creations. But, always, with that such

familiar feeling.

Yes, we live in times unprecedented, where much appears concerning, but when I stop and just feel, and observe, I see Magick happening all around me. You see, that's the real order. Life is dancing, full of joy, in any way it possibly can. Life is Sacred, incredibly Sacred – it's where the Life Force takes a form and longs to express its ecstatic joyfulness.

The answer lies right in front of us – it's all around us. It's Life, singing and dancing, whispering and serenading. It's powerfully wooing a passionate lover. It only knows Life – it's from Light not darkness. It has a feeling, one that can't be copied. It's joyful, it's warm, it's comforting, and it's healing. It's loving, it's wise – oh, and with wisdom so ancient. And within the passage of Life are cycles upon cycles, birth and death, rebirth, rejuvenation.

So 2012 is moving towards an ending – a massive year of transformation and learning. Death needs to occur before rebirth is possible... rejuvenation is offered if we approach with humility. The secret is bound in the air that we breathe, it lives all around us, it never leaves.

Yes Life is Sacred, as too are we, and it's the honouring of this Sacredness that will be our salvation.

# ASTRO FORECASTS BY TINA MEWS

YOUR MONTHLY REVIEW OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS

## November



We have reached the energetically intense sign of Scorpio in our yearly cycle around the zodiac. Scorpio is a water sign and relates to emotions and deep-seated feelings that might not be easily detected from the outside. The proverb "Still waters run deep" sums it up very nicely. Individuals with a strong Scorpionic signature might hold onto their grudges and contemplate revenge. More than anybody else they are driven to get to the bottom of things, not leaving a stone unturned. Scorpio likes to dig for the subterranean riches including the truth and is not afraid to expose reality for what it is. Therefore, Scorpio energy is transformative and its owners can use it for helping and influencing others in a positive way. Nevertheless, their wilful nature, resilience and determination remains a power to be reckoned with.

We probably will look back onto this passage of time in our lives as a moment when energies finally shifted. Australia is experiencing a total eclipse of the Sun on November 14 which will be passing across the North of Australia from Darwin to Cairns. It is said that eclipses will have their strongest effects in areas where they are visible. This is a rare event (the last visible Solar eclipse for Australia took place in Dec 2002) and we can witness it from our local area between 6.57 am and 9.00 am. Remember to wear protective glasses with a special sun filter! During a solar eclipse the Moon passes in front of the Sun (= powerful New Moon) and the constant flow of solar energies to the Earth is interrupted. During these few moments cycles can end, old programs can be erased and new paradigms can emerge. Since ancient times, eclipses have been observed as harbinger of sudden and unexpected change. Collectively, we are asked to shift onto a higher, more inclusive level and take decisive steps into a new direction. In the sign of Scorpio issues regarding land ownership and resources could be triggered, making us asking the question of who is actually owning our land and its riches. On a more practical level, we are advised not to make important decisions a week before or after an eclipse because significant information might be concealed. Individuals who are born mid February, May, August or November might feel the effects of this eclipse more than others.

A Lunar eclipse follows two weeks later just after midnight early on Nov 29 in the sign of Gemini. During a lunar eclipse the Moon passes through the shadow of the Earth and for a few hours the Full Moon will be darkened without reflecting the light from the Sun. We might feel confronted with feelings and events that have remained unintegrated within our subconscious. It is essential to hold back with our opinions and remain open for intuiting the larger picture. What we see depends on where we stand. In this context it is important to be aware of Mercury's retrograde phase from November 7 until November 27. The cosmic messenger might bring out its shadow side and we can expect that anything concerning communication, transport and travel will not work out as planned. Those who are heading north for the eclipse are advised to allow extra for travel time ....and the unexpected.

For Personal Readings contact me on 6689-7413, mobile 0457-903-957, e-mail: [star-loom@hotmail.com](mailto:star-loom@hotmail.com) or visit my web page: <http://nimbinstarloom.com.au>  
Advanced Astrology courses at the Lillifield Community Centre: Wednesdays: 10 am – 1pm.

### Aries

The Solar eclipse on Nov 14 offers the potential for a fresh start if you are willing to explore your own psychological depth and clear away old hurts. Navigate between being dutiful and committed versus being independent and creative.

### Taurus

The unpredictable energies of the moment might play havoc with your needs for stability and a peaceful existence. Allow yourself to be shaken up and moved by events over which you have no control. Avoid getting stuck with your own views on things.

### Gemini

The dramatic current cosmic energies might be strenuous for your nerves. Take extra vitamin C for boosting your immune system. Keep breathing gently and consciously if too much mental energy is buzzing around your head at the Full Moon lunar eclipse on Nov 28-29.

### Cancer

The call for adventure and change has been out for a while and you have witnessed others going through transformative processes. More than anything it is your time for new creative projects that allow your 'inner child' to come out and be playful without too many outer or inner restrictions.

### Leo

Endings and new beginnings will take place especially concerning your domestic life which might impact on your goals and ambition for the future. When Mars, the planet of action enters the sign of organised Capricorn on Nov 17 your ambition to succeed with your work will be renewed.

### Virgo

Sudden events in your everyday life might force you to re-evaluate the things that you took for granted. Examine your agreement with others. Are they still working or do they need to be adjusted to reflect new circumstances? Be aware that you might find it difficult to communicate your thoughts and feelings.

### Libra

You are asked to re-assess your values including your material possessions. What is holding you back from shifting onto the next level of your evolutionary journey? Old dependencies might have to be dissolved to make space for new developments.

### Scorpio

This powerful Solar eclipse in your sun sign offers opportunities for re-defining your concept of self and the roles you play in the world. Do not fight the old, rather focus on building the new. Those of you who are born mid-month will be most affected by the energies of the eclipse.

### Sagittarius

Right now it is difficult to make rules for reaching decisions because important information might be hidden. Adjust your urge to start new projects with finishing off anything that has been completed in the past. Your patience might be tested towards the end of the month. So, please keep cool!

### Capricorn

Use the energies of the moment for clarifying your most important goals and objectives. You will have lots of energy for different projects from mid month. Remain open for new friends entering your life who might change the ways you perceive and connect with your day-to-day environment.

### Aquarius

Make sure not to get lost in your own world and understand the impact you have on others. Be prepared to make important changes to your life direction. Know that you are supported if you are willing to shift to another level.

### Pisces

Open up to new discoveries about yourself and the world through study, travel or meditation. Allow fresh insights to inspire you. Avoid narrow-mindedness based on the assumption of already knowing it all. Instead, work on consciously shifting those values and beliefs that keep you living in the past.

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**Film review by Stephen Wright**

I believe there's a general rule in film-making that one must never kill a dog. Dogs have a cinematic history of miraculous escapes, usually from burning infernos, and of rescuing children. Even Bruce Willis dies in some of his films. Dogs never.

Tim Burton's latest offering the animated *Frankenweenie* doesn't swerve from this. *Frankenweenie* is about the dog that can't die even when it does.

Burton is a strange filmmaker. He's made about a dozen and a half films most of which have been terrible. But he still seems to get tagged with the label of 'wunderkind' mostly on the basis of Edward

Scissorhands, which was made over 20 years ago. His better films – which are not that good – all seem to be set in the same place; it's the town of Edward Scissorhands. Ditto for *Frankenweenie*, which is a kind of 'Edward Scissor-dog.'

*Frankenweenie's* New Holland is a small town in which the inhabitants are more or less the characters in 60's Hammer horror films. The hero, Victor Frankenstein, is a schoolboy with a fascination with film-making and science. He also has a small dog, Sparky and two parents straight out of *Happy Days*. When Sparky is accidentally run over one day and killed, Victor decides to see if he can resurrect him.

Burton has a rep for making

'children's films' that aren't really children's films at all. They are just slightly too creepy to be children's films, and not in a good way. Think, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Alice in Wonderland. Tim Burton's children's films are like films made by your weird uncle who wants to sit you on his knee and pretend to steal your nose. When you are twelve.

*Frankenweenie* is made in black and white, which is not a gimmick rather than anything else. And Tim Burton is very much a master of the gimmick. About midway through the film, *Frankenweenie* starts to attack the US right-wing suspicion of science and for ten minutes begins to look interesting. It's an angle that Burton could have played well, especially in an era when even the destruction of Manhattan gets written off as a freak event or the vengeance of God.

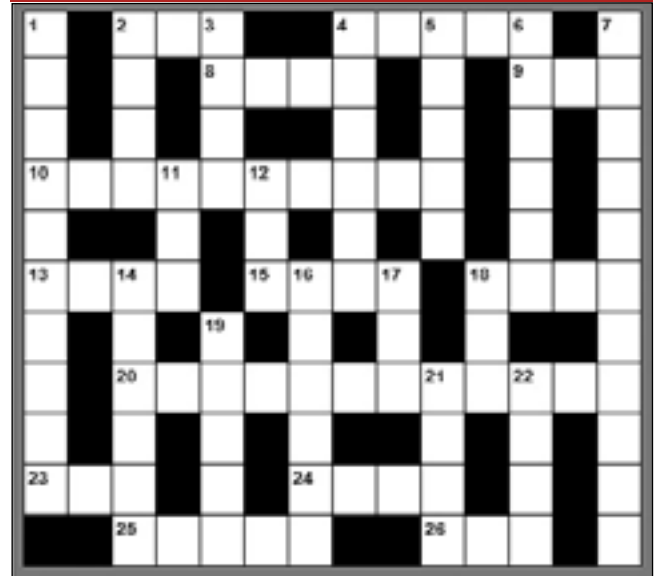
Finding young Frankenstein's teacher weird, and science

disturbing, the townsfolk get him sacked. He cautions Victor that science needs a heart as well as a brain, which is fine as far as it goes. And perhaps, for Tim Burton, this is searing social critique and about as much as Americans can take. But it's a critique that's not really built on anything coherent. *Frankenweenie* is in fact film where the baddies are two other children, one Asian and one disabled, so critiquing American fear of scientific truth starts to look odd in that kind of context.

*Frankenweenie* is probably a film to watch on DVD when you're stoned and don't want to have to think too much and just eat cheezels and ice-cream on the couch. So, go for it. It does after all have its own kind of cleverness, with a lot of cinematic references to old horror films and so on. And of course, it's a film about a dog. So there probably won't be a dry canine eye in your house. And by the way, I have no idea why it's called *Frankenweenie*.

# Nimbin Crossword

2012-II  
by 5ynic



**Across**

- 2. (and 18 across) Sweet Chinese paste, used in desserts
- 4. Soft sugar candy
- 8. Nobleman
- 9. King's return on investment?
- 10. Defibrillated, or zombified?
- 13. Wait (old English)
- 15. Supermarket
- 18. See 2 across.
- 20. (7,3) small fruit bread
- 23. Used before the final portion of every web address
- 24. Couldn't hold Napoleon
- 25 Crystallised cane juice
- 26. Aussie pub tucker

- 3. Cold cuts counter
- 4. Having shallow grooves like a classical counn? Played on a woodwind instrument.
- 5. Semiconductor allowing current only in one direction
- 6. High official of court? Stroat
- 7. Readiness
- 11. Maiden name
- 12. Larger than 2 down. Extinct.
- 14. Deep-fried confectionary dusted with 25 across
- 16. Pantry?
- 17. Local store or supermarket
- 18. Autonomous vehicle?
- 21. Smallest tides (at the equinoxes)
- 22. Smoke in the car? Cook in the oven.

**Down**

- 1. Butter biscuits
- 2. Large flightless bird –

Solution Page 27

## Reviews from the Crypt

by Stephen Wright

**The Beat**

**I Just Can't Stop It (1981)**

The Beat were part of the ska revival that came out of the English midlands in the early 1980's, a revival that included The Specials, Madness, the Selecter, UB40 and The Bodysnatchers.

Spearheaded by The Specials and their record label Two-Tone, and riding on the coat-tails of punk, to who they owed their political debt, ska was innovative, musically rich and confronted the endemic racism of Thatcher's Britain head-on. Like The Specials, The Beat were a large ensemble, with both black and white members. In 1980's Britain this was a massive political statement.

*I Just Can't Stop It* was the first of The Beat's three albums and undoubtedly



the best. Its ska beat is complex and super-catchy and reminds us that ska was dance music that wore its politics on its sleeve.

In *Two Swords*, The Beat attacked the neo-Nazi National Front, just as The Specials did in *Concrete Jungle*, at the same time reminding everyone that, as much as we might hate them – and they were worth hating – the NF were largely just dumb kids who had no understanding of how they carried out an essential function of the corporate state, harrassing blacks and Asians.

*I Just Can't Stop It* is also notable for several hits, including 'Big Shot', 'Mirror in the Bathroom' and 'Twist and Crawl'. In fact these three songs probably sum up the categories of The Beat's

preoccupations: 'Big Shot's sarcastic attack on the powerful, 'Mirror in the Bathroom's twisted ponderings on identity and 'Twist and Crawl's take on the byzantine nature of relationships.

A few years back The Beat's black toastmaster Ranking Roger said he wanted to reform The Beat because it looked to him like today's young people, in the UK at any rate, were returning to the racist attitudes of their great-grandparents. Whether he is right or wrong to pull The Beat back together – I for one have no interest in seeing a 50-something Roger singing 'Big Shot' – the fact remains that politics seems to have drained out of popular music.

The Beat and the Two-Tone experiment did something very special in pop music. At the very least, people don't freak when black and white performers work in the same band.

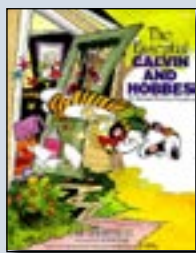
**Bill Watterson**

**The Essential Calvin and Hobbes (1988)**

Bill Watterson stopped drawing the comic strip *Calvin and Hobbes* in the mid-1990's. Not that you'd know. He got bored with it, and also didn't want anything to do with *Calvin and Hobbes* merchandising. Which is why you don't see *Calvin and Hobbes* coffee mugs and key rings.

Calvin is the hyperactive six-year-old with an imaginary friend, his stuffed tiger, Hobbes, who in Calvin's eyes is more or less his psychic

doppelganger. Watterson was obviously inspired by Charles M. Schulz's *Peanuts*, and his Calvin and Hobbes does occasionally veer into that hokey territory that Americans seem to love; the importance of hugs, the emotional significance of Christmas and so on. But for the most part what makes *Calvin and Hobbes* so interesting is the depiction of a six-year old's world as a kind of dark and ironic commentary on the adult world where you can



have a lot more fun.

*Calvin and Hobbes* bequeathed us a lot of memorable images: Calvin's snowmen he constructs in his front yard that frequently enact macabre scenes of murder and mayhem; Spaceman Spiff, Calvin's alter-ego, the state of mind he inhabits when faced with a formidable foe, an enraged teacher or parent; his continual rating of his Dad's performance as Dad; his obsession with his favourite breakfast cereal, Chocolate-Frosted Sugar Bombs; his

construction of a time-machine, and so on.

Watterson is also an excellent draughtsman, so his portrayals of Calvin in fast-jets or spaceships have a great realism that emphasises how vivid Calvin's world is to him and Hobbes. That's perhaps the reason why *Calvin and Hobbes* remains so popular. Everyone (one hopes) can remember a time when the preoccupations of childhood were so much more important than anything adults had to say, so important that you began to wonder if adults were in fact a different species.

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# On The Organic Omnibus Fruit of the vine by Terry Beltrane

Looking back on when I first started making wine in the mid 1960s, I'm horrified to think what was sprayed onto grapes and the chemical additions that were used in 'processing' the nectar that was the end result of all that work. The wine industry has changed immeasurably since then, with technology and the recognition that a more holistically organic approach to the entire wine making process, from vineyard to winery, is not only beneficial to wine quality but is also more cost effective – money talks.

An industry that 40 years ago was comprised of a large number of small 'boutique' and medium sized producers is now dominated by conglomerates that make approximately 70% of all Australian wine. Amalgamations and takeovers in the last 20 years have seen many smaller quality wine makers incorporated under the umbrella of the four major producers. What's this got to do with organic wine? Large public companies need profits to satisfy their shareholders and garner more investment to continue their expansion and therefore market share. Any/all means of reducing costs and improving quality contribute to the bottom line.

Ironically it's been the small winery/viticulturists who were committed in their quality/wine/health philosophy to take the initial risks in implementing an organic approach to growing grapes by improving soil quality and therefore fruit that was less prone to the multitude of fungal and pest diseases to which grapes/vines are susceptible. More stringent health laws have evolved to significantly reduce the amount of permissible additives to wine, the most significant being sulphur dioxide. Once the maximum allowable level of sulphur dioxide (preservative 220) was 650 parts per million (ppm); today the maximum allowed is 250 ppm, with the general industry standard being that 150 ppm is more common and often significantly less. Sulphur dioxide is important to the point of being necessary to make quality wine free from microbiological spoilage and herein lies the conundrum. Organic doesn't mean



preservative free.

Certified organic wine must be made from fruit that has been grown organically; agricultural practices that include crop rotation, green manure, compost, biological pest control, mechanical cultivation that maintains soil productivity and control pests excluding the use of synthetic fertilisers and synthetic pesticides, plant growth regulators, livestock feed additives and genetically modified organisms. Anything that you add to the land must be organic. For a vineyard to become certified as organic requires three years under the inspection of an independent inspector contracted to Australian Certified Organic. Nearly all winemakers now adopt a near organic approach to their vineyard practices: it's more cost effective and produces better results with vine health and quality yields.

Nitrogenous cover crops contribute to soil vitality and reduce the need for water supplementation and the grape skins and seeds separated at the winery are spread back out into the vineyards to add nutrients and soil friability.

Wines made from organically certified vineyards are still permitted levels of up to 125ppm of sulphur dioxide, though these levels are mostly considerably less in keeping with the producers' philosophy in making a product as purely organic as possible without spoilage in the finished wine. Sulphur dioxide is almost always added to the grapes as they enter the crusher/press so as to prevent the juice from oxidation and to inhibit the natural yeast cells until a pure yeast culture is added to the expressed grape juice. With the introduction in use of carbon dioxide, an

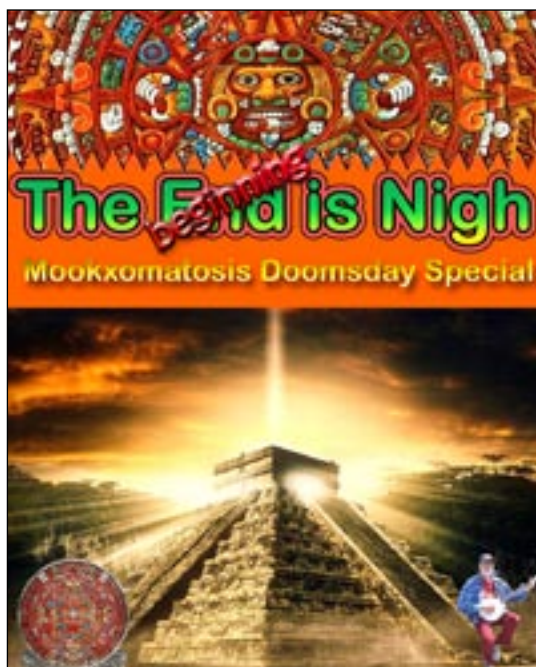
inert gas being more dense than air, winemakers now use this as a "cover" over the grape juice minimising the need for sulphur dioxide. All wine movements within the winery are conducted under a cover of carbon dioxide, again negating the use of sulphur dioxide. It's common, generally considered essential, to add a small amount of sulphur dioxide just prior the bottling process to protect the wine during this aggressive process. The empty bottles are sparged of air with the use of carbon dioxide for white wines and a blend of carbon dioxide and nitrogen (another inert gas) for reds to prevent oxidation.

You will find on many wine labels the terms 'may contain traces of milk (powdered) and or egg (egg white) products'. These products are used as 'fining' agents designed to remove suspended particles in the wine that may contribute bitter or coarse taste/textures in the wine and will settle to the bottom of the tank, along with these additives, prior to filtering the wine and bottling.

Australia has one, if not the most, organic 'approaches' to viticulture and making wine throughout the world: it's in their and the consumers' best interest from both a quality and cost perspective. If the label stipulates Certified Organic you can be doubly confident that the winemaker has done their absolute best to bring you a crafted beverage with your health in mind. Oh! Before I sign out, by way of comparison non-organically dried fruit contains 3000ppm of sulphur dioxide – small wonder it congests the sinus and makes you sneeze.

Keep in mind, it's not the alcohol that does the damage – it's the person who drinks it in excess.

Wine info: [terryb88@tpg.com.au](mailto:terryb88@tpg.com.au)



by Brendan "Mookx" Hanley

*"Beyond the hype about 2012 and beneath the nonsense about global catastrophe is an ancient Mayan culture with an astonishing understanding of the universe and of consciousness – more relevant today than when it was developed thousands of years ago."*

– Internationally celebrated author and Mayan Calendar expert Carl Johan Calleman  
[www.calleman.com](http://www.calleman.com)

Never mind 1984, Brave New World and Y2K millennium bugs. Never mind Coal Seam Gas companies and Lismore Council's Fluoride Death Squad. Never mind Israel and Iran and America and Armageddon and Arseholes running the show and all of that paranoia. The beginning is nigh!

I read a book called "Cosmic Consciousness" (of all things) with chapters like Greece, Egypt, Babylon, Astrology, Numerology, Knights Templar, The Vatican, Freemasonry, Maya and so on. It was a salad of paradigms, belief systems, mathematics, astro-sciences, prophecies, eras, religions ... you name it. My major impression of the book was that every single one of those researched and studied paradigms were seeming to say Look the FUCK out for December 2012!

Then I discovered Swedish toxicologist Carl Johan Calleman who is into the Mayan culture, and in particular, the geometry involved in the customary nine steps of their pyramids. His research revealed that it kicks off by multiplying the 20 Sun Signs by 13 Galactic tones to determine the dimensions of the first step. The top one.

Then you raise that number to the power of two, three and so on, up to nine. Each step's specs appear and you build your Pyramid as mathematically ordained!

Not content with such a mundane, architectural, artisan explanation, our Swedish boffin, being a curious, non-run-of-the-mill lad like he is, decides to do a little number crunching on the side. So he runs his computer over each of the nine '20 X 13 to the power of' equations... and finds lots of interesting, universally-comforting co-incidences amongst his mathematical meanderings.

First up... he assures us that the world isn't going to explode in December! Although it might be nice to miss out on all that Xmas crap just for once! Imagine... no more Jingle Fucking Bells and Rudolph the Red Nosed

whatever. As for Bing Crosby and White Christmas...

Anyway... It turns out that power 9, 30 X 20, the big bottom step, is awfully close numerically to science's 'Big Bang' date.

The next step, power 8, coincides closely with first signs of life on Earth, then come the first animals, the first monkeys, the first humans... cave art and primitive messages, the printing press followed by the digital era... and finally step No. ... the top. December 21, 2012! It's referred to as the Completion of Creation. It's an arrival... apparently not Doomsday at all.

To the intrepid Carl, it's a lucid map of the growth of consciousness... in fact, a spot-on calendar of communication since time began. Nothing prophetic! No, no, no! Simply pure maths coinciding with Terrestrial events. This in fact, is the very premise of Astrology.

As above... so below! When Mars is up your woofers... there will be war! (Note to self: Just summed up Astrology in 10 words.)

Next, Calleman divides up all the dates based on the 13s and 20s and so on, and comes up with very accurate dates for happenings like revolutions, renaissances, medical and scientific breakthroughs, discovery of countries, war and peace... the lot. It's an impossibly accurate, pre-emptive almanac of world events, with a big-picture subtext of the development and growth of consciousness. We are apparently a result of mathematics. We're nothing but a massive Rubik's Cube! We have apparently been evolving from the primeval mist to the digital wisp and now it's almost over! We have grown too big for our collective boots! We are celestial poker machines about to jackpot!

Calleman does not interpret the date as an apocalypse, Armageddon, or other cataclysmic event but a slow transformation in which people experience a higher 'unity consciousness'. Just what we need. And it's all about together! We can't get there until we are all in the same head-space. It's all or nothing. It's everyone or no-one! He believes we are arriving at a place in the scheme of things that is clearly the end of a very long conscious, communicative process... and a subsequent new beginning. He is entirely optimistic that we are arriving somewhere... and to me, that seems both timely and obvious. It certainly can't continue the way it is.

So! What if the end is nigh? What if we do actually find ourselves at the end of life as we know it? A new world beyond cave paintings, printing presses and dare I say it... Facebook? No more petrol-guzzling, plastic-purchasing, porno-perving, neighbour-hating, ego-inflating, money-misbehaving, profit-shaving, microwaving, slaving sheep in a chemtrailed, up-for-sale, coal-seamed, reamed, irradiated, overstated, constipated, vaccinated, fluoridated, masturbated, outdated, overtaxed, un-relaxed, drugged and raped, pear shaped, owned and droned, cell-phoned, indexed, oversexed, multiple-hexed, exponential, potential wasteland!

Let's hope it's the end of unsustainable corporate monopolies, hollow meaningless religion, crooked untrustworthy politicians, malicious manipulative media, wanton war and despoilation of our beautiful Mother Earth. We simply have to move to a higher plane.

The beginning is nigh!



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by Michael Smith, Len Martin and Catherine Baker

The last day of September saw just three of us in Evans Head, walking among the Spring wildflowers to Goanna Headland.

We crossed heathlands of short, scratchy vegetation, stunted by poor soil and salty winds, with flowers of every colour. On reaching the grassy knolls, boulder beaches and ochre cliffs (Dirrawong's wound), we wandered south along the goanna's tail.

There were lots of people doing stuff on the beach. Not gold mining as of yore, but recreating: a sunny spring, school holidays long weekend – the beach, and children being shepherded around the analogue world, that inspired the virtual.

Squandering a little post-peak fossil fuel, we transferred to the Gummi Garra Walk on the banks of the Evans River, one of the best wildflower walks on the far north coast.

A couple of months of dry, windy weather had pruned the flowers down to a basic set of the usual suspects. The bush was suffering, dropped leaves, petals dried around the edges, and no orchids.

It was a brave and special place, sandwiched between a bombing range and a retiring population. People were happy here in the past, as evidenced by the Bundjalung campsite and midden, and it was possible to find happiness there still. Cath was blissed out on the spiritual vibe, so we sat on a bed of fallen Kurrajong leaves and explained our reactions to this place.

There were oysters on the rocks below, at a place called The Iron Gates. We could have added new shells to the midden. Modern "hunters" in tinnies were moving about the river for fish, peace and beauty. Eventually we had to go home.

A planned early Friday morning start for a weekend camp at Black Rock, Bundjalung National Park, was delayed by car problems. We arrived late to find the place fairly crowded. The day had been very windy, so it was good to find a sheltered shady camp-site.

Judy immediately scampered away to explore vast areas in the dark. Michael and Joy arrived later and we enjoyed a remarkably quiet night, given the number of neighbours. A brief evening walk to a near by dune revealed the spectacular panorama of our galaxy, the Milky Way, Scorpius at centre with red planet Mars (Ares) closing on red star Antares.

Michelle and Catherine joined us in the morning to walk along Jerusalem Creek.

The bush looked wonderfully healthy – well recovered from fire damage, remarkably free of bloody bitou, but with



few flowers.

The water in the creek was very high, and I assumed that this was due to it being high tide. Not so, when we reached the ocean end, the entrance was blocked. The creek had obviously been well over the path, presumably filled by the continuous rain earlier in the year.

Close to the end we sat on the dunes to watch the activity of Humpback whales heading south. Lunch under a shady banksia beside the creek, where some of the ladies enjoyed a swim, while I photographed waders, Rainbow Bee-eaters, Osprey and Dollar bird perched close together, Crested Terns bathing and a Brahminy Kite.

Low tide was at midday with planned return along the beach beside the spectacular Black Rocks. Alas, though we started back only one hour later, the ocean was already starting to lap the rocks and most of us had to scramble up over them to complete the return on the creekside track.

We think that the previous weeks' rough seas had lowered the beach. Another quiet and pleasant evening. Next morning, we set out across heathland towards Wendoree Lagoon. Few flowers – Boronia, Leptospermum – but many Grass Tree flower heads with white-cheeked honey-eaters feeding on the nectar. But the only insects on them were feral European Honey bees.

A sad sight. Such flower heads were once crowded with a vast diversity of insects, numerous species of flying beetles, jewel beetles, scarabs, longhorns, butterflies, day-flying moths, native bees, flower wasps. It was a reminder of the vast amount of biodiversity that has been lost in a mere 60 years.

A walk highlight was a pair of carpet snakes in flagrante by the roadside. Wendoree Lagoon, where some of the ladies swam, was beautiful as ever with reeds and fringe of Melaleucas. A great weekend.

The walk from the end of Huonbrook Road in Byron Shire up to Mount Jerusalem Road isn't a tough one. The

return trip to the Byron Bay Lookout took about three hours, excluding lunch. A shaded track all the way, the first 40 or so minutes were uphill, not so much steep as awkward, with deep rain-eroded channels. The recent lack of rain meant a practically leechless walk – I saw only one.

After the track levelled out we were rewarded with a nice view of the Doughboy, though tree growth will probably block this in the not-too-distant future. At about an hour we had both the Doughboy and Mount Warning in our sights.

Not the best of views of Mount Warning, as the day was fairly overcast. But for me it's the walking that counts, the movement. There was a time when I took my Omega OM-1 camera everywhere, bristling with every kind of lens and filter. No more.

As we continued along a narrow but easy track towards the Byron Bay Lookout, Michael Smith cleared up what had been a bit of a mystery to us on previous visits. There are many marks in the rocks to the right – long smooth semi-circular dints, varying from about 20 to 50cm. Weird. Not natural. My friends (one of them eight years old) and I had spoken of aliens, kind of hopefully. "They're drill holes," said Michael, "for dynamiting the rock that was in the way of the Casino to Murwillumbah mail run." Of course! Why hadn't I thought of that? Maybe because we've so lost touch with the idea of mail runs and ponies and so on.

From the Byron Bay Lookout you can normally see the lighthouse in a whole new context, but it was denied us this overcast day. Nothing daunted, we paid homage to what might have been and made our way back to where we could overlook Mount Warning, to enjoy lunch.

The conversation was such that bushwalkers – new, old and returned – generally enjoy. Drill holes, rock faces, close encounters, dicky knee joints and my best sandwich ever...

It was a good day.

Nimbin Bushwalkers Club Inc.

## Walks Program for November

Saturday 10th November

Wanganui Gorge (near Minyon Falls)

Leader Judy Hales (6689-0254). **Grade 3** 2-3 hr: initial shade-less walk on farmland followed by walk up Cooper Creek through Bangalow Palm forest. Some spiky thorns and slippery rocks. **Meet** 9am at Nimbin car park for car-pooling, 9.30am Channon pub, or 10am at end of Upper Coopers Creek Rd, off Coopers Creek Rd, Repentance Creek. **Bring** food for picnic and water.

Sunday 18th November

Terania Creek Basin to Gracies Spire

Leader Judy Hales (6689-0254). **Grade 4** Wild rugged rainforest. Climb the spire if you dare. Swim in a rainforest pool. Mostly off track. **Meet** 8am Nimbin car park, 8.30am Channon pub. 9.05am end of Terania Creek Road, near Protestors Falls Car Park. **Bring** food, swimmers and water.

Sunday 25th November

Booyong Reserve & AGM

Leader Michael Smith (6689-9291). **Grade 1** 1hr, flat, 1.2km through a Big Scrub remnant. AGM to follow in picnic area. Photographers, bring your best pictures for the photo competition. Entry to the competition, bring something for the prize pool. Photos must have been taken on one of our walks. **Meet** 9am Nimbin car park, or 10.05am Booyong Reserve, Booyong Road (6km east of Clunes). **Bring** lunch, water, chair, photos, stories and happiness – and insect repellent!

Weekend 8-9th December

End of year camp at Koreelah Gorge

Two day camp ring Don for details.

Leader Don Durrant (6633-3138 at night).

**There will be no further walks in December and none in January.**

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 20061 Nimbin, 2480 (Tel. 6689-0254).

www.nimbinbushwalkers.com

Secretary, Len Martin (pteropus42@smartchat.net.au)

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# Nimbin Garden Club Notes



by Bernadine Schwartz

## Club Visit to The Island

Our 20th of October visit to the 12 acre property of Sandy and Lyndal Thompson situated at Barkers Vale was an extremely hot and dry day. It was great to see many members attend despite the weather. This property is an inspiration to anyone whose land is being ravaged by weeds and finds it challenging to eradicate them. Everyone with acreage is not immune from weed infestations, as these species leave no land untouched.

The land is enclosed by 800m of creek frontage (Leycester Creek) and this is how it came to be named, The Island, many years ago. When Sandy and Lyndal bought the property 15 years ago, it was a plantation of Lantana and many other weeds including: Giant Privet, Balloon Vine and Tobacco Bush.

Following advice from a friend a few years ago, Sandy and Lyndal submitted an application for the EnviroFund Grant and were successful. This enabled them to employ men from an organisation in Lismore called Envite and assigned them specifically to cut down Lantana as well as all the other obnoxious weeds.

Sandy's chosen garden tool was a



simple machete. Sandy is so passionate about the environment that a few years ago he decided to go to University of New England and earned himself Honours in Environmental Science. This is why he is so informative and it showed when guiding us along the banks of the creek. Areas like these demonstrate what a haven they are for wildlife and us on such a stifling day. The creek has a beautiful and serene aspect around every bend and is home to Platypus, Catfish, Eels and Frogs. Many native trees have sprung up since the Lantana has been cleared and Sandy refers to these young trees as volunteers. The volunteer trees include, White Cedars which are everywhere, Native Hibiscus with their delicate single petaled flowers, native Tamarinds, Sandpaper Figs, Drongos, Orange Thorn, Gingers, Allamanda and Casuarinas. These species account for 95% of the new trees on the property. Sandy and Lyndal have also planted Davidson Plum, Bunya Pine, Banksias, Lilly Pilli's and the endangered Small Leaf Tamarind. The majority of the trees are laden with numerous mature Stags, Elks and Epiphytes in abundance. One tree that impressed all was a grand old 20 metre-high Fig. When Sandy and Lyndal purchased the property, this Fig was devoid of any leaves and was encased by 1 metre thick Lantana. Now it is a healthy tree and a testament to what can be achieved and hopefully it will live on for many more decades. Other rainforest species included; Black Apple, Hairy Walnut, White Beach and a giant Stinging Tree whose name says it all.

Walking back to the house is a



sprawling lawn where Sandy likes to practice his golf. A large enclosed vegie garden sits at the front of the house with raised garden beds throughout. The vegie garden was made up of plantings of beans, corn, strawberries, broccoli and many others. Their broccoli has now been protected after being victim of marauding Bower Birds often referred to as gangs by Sandy.

Thanks Sandy and Lyndal for your informative visit. You made us all feel a lot more optimistic knowing that these terrorists of the Australian bush can be overcome. All we have to do is be persistent and vigilant until we win and then constantly remain on the outlook for new infestations.

The club would like to thank Denise Braidwood for once again, organising a successful bus trip to Mount Tambourine. We visited four spectacular gardens and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all. All members are reminded that our Christmas get-together will be at the Nimbin Bush Theatre commencing at 12pm on 17th November. Bring a plate of food and refreshments will be provided.



# Postcard from China

by Ian Wickham in Tianjin

Everyone smokes here, they don't bother with helmets, and nobody bothers with seatbelts. Hey, it's just like Nimbin with smog. 'Cept I see more cops and sniffer dogs in Nimbin. They even drive like Nimbinites – you go anywhere you like, bugger the rules, but try not to run over anyone on the way. If it looks like you are, you give them a honk on your horn.



The only Chinese Big Brother I can see is on the web, where they've blocked YouTube and Facebook. Dumb! But hey, the AFL Grand Final, from good old Oz, got blocked on the web to all but subscribers, by our own Big Brother AFL. I don't know how they think that'll help the game. It's like dumb and dumber!

Politically the big thing in China at the moment is a dispute between the Chinese and Japanese over some remote islands off the coast here. Many Chinese who have Japanese cars have stuck small Chinese flag stickers over the Japanese logos on their cars.

I'm teaching English over here. Started off from a low base, but they still like me, both staff and students. Staff all said I looked tired, which I was, but I didn't think it showed that much, and they started to get concerned. One teacher at school took me shopping in her car because she was getting so concerned.

It was timely; I'd just about run out of groceries, and couldn't work out where the shops were. Having a foreign English teacher at your school is a real big deal for Chinese schools, because they want us to teach real English. They really do want you to succeed. Chinese students are deadly on books, but once they stray from it, the conversation becomes dead.

So they really do need us. See us three foreign teachers in photo. We each have a different school, and there's not many of us compared to how many schools they have here.

Outside it is hard to get around because everything is in Chinese, would you believe! And Tianjin is geographically huge, so walking is useless. Prior knowledge is required to go anywhere. Little English is spoken in the street. (Or written either.) They do know 'Hello' and 'bye bye'. The other word they know is 'teacher'. I get instant recognition when I say it, and good vibes too. Teaching is a passport to acceptance in China. They even have a national 'Teachers Day' to promote its importance.

The common language the East and West has is numbers. All Chinese know and can use our number system. This is surprisingly useful. When in a Chinese restaurant, the menu may be gobbledeegook to you, so you just have to gamble on what you get, but at least you know how much it'll cost. Great when you're on a strict budget, which I am, until I get my first pay. (You get paid monthly in China).

By the way, tried BBQ'd frog. Delicious. A bit like chicken. It was cheap too. Went well with some strange mushrooms BBQ'd on a stick. Chinese are the masters of mushrooms. And all washed down with Chinese beer, which is good, cheap, and available anywhere and everywhere. But they don't like it very cold - bumper.

Another use for numbers is travelling. The buses have their route nos. in our numbers. If I see the nos. 581, 582 or 583 on a bus I know I can get home. If I do get lost, good ol' numbers on my mobile phone will allow me to call someone for help. All Chinese have mobile phones with normal numbers.

And yet another use for numbers is the floor numbers. As I trudge up the five flights of stairs to my flat, numbers on the floors let me know how much further to go. This is important when you're lugging your drinking water up. This is because you don't drink the water from the tap here in China.

On holidays at the moment, thanks to Mid-Autumn festival. Have been taking tours on the local buses just to see where they do go. Plus writing a postcard to you, of course. Back to school next week.

I listen to Nim-FM on the web when I get home from school to my flat. And look forward to each new *GoodTimes* edition. Keep up the good work. These things become more important the further you go from home.

## The world according to...

Why has the world been seduced by the ukulele? What is it about this undersized, high-pitched midget that's really only good for kindling?

As a professional music teacher for 30 years I looked down my beaky nose at this Lilliputian instrument. Real musicians didn't take the miniature seriously, playing it

## Magenta Appel-Pye

only occasionally for a bit of light-weight (literally) fun.

I've seen many musical fads. I've taught the piano princesses, the sultry saxophonists and the guitar heroes. There's been African drumming, Middle

Eastern drumming for the belly dancers and spirit drumming to evoke ancestors and discover latent ancestral rhythms. I've even taught Indonesian Gamelan.

But I staunchly resisted the runt of the string family. Last year, spurred on by the incentive of a free ticket to Mullumbimby Music Festival in the uke troupe, I picked up the pygmy and found that the little bastard punches way above it's weight.

Then my husband bought me a nice little Kanaloa (made in China, of course). Now I'm addicted. I can't get this monkey off my back. I'm

sporting strummer's manicure where the nails on the left hand are short, long on the right. I've developed ukelitis and my fingers are calloused and bleeding. My drums are dusty, my saxophone's rusty and the piano is sulking in the corner. I don't care, I have

a new child and I'm a clucky ukulele mother.

I now specialise in teaching older people to play the plucky baby. We happily nurse our pride and joys, singing corny songs without shame. Even my husband, a brilliant pianist has

condescended to learn and now sports the silly ukulele grin.

I know that music self-played is happiness self-made, and this little beauty gets you there quickly, easily and cheaply. I'm plucking besotted but the dog hates it.



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# Rainbow Road – a whole of community project

by Lois Kelly

Lismore City Council has selected the Nimbin Walking Path project as part of its funding application to the Federal Government.

Local community support for the path has been wonderful. It's this passion and support that will make this project a truly innovative and unique experience for visitors and local alike.

At this stage, we are focusing on the first two stages of the walk.

The route for the first stage has been changed slightly since the original community consultation. The walk will start at the Visitor Centre (hopefully to later move to the Sustainability Hub at 7 Sibley Street), and will go down behind

the School of Arts following an established right of way.

The walk will then go along land owned by the Community School and the Nimbin Hotel, where there will be a little cul-de-sac. There is a wonderful natural amphitheatre here that will be developed and used for a range of community events. The walk will continue along the creek, which will be developed into a special rainforest area. The Nimbin Garden Club has indicated interest in adopting part of this beautiful area.

The Second Stage of the walk will cross the creek, go along the side of the Nimbin Headers Ground and then over to the Rainbow Power Company. Negotiations are underway with the owners of

Aquarius village to make a special sculpture and bird watching area along the back of the subdivision where the path will then lead to Cecil Street, where walkers will have the opportunity to partake of activities offered by Djanbung Gardens. The walk will then come back along Cecil Street and through the rainforest area beside the creek to re-enter the village.

Students from Southern Cross University are involved in researching the project and we have had meetings with a range of people who will add value to this great experience.

We are planning a community session on this project on Saturday 1st December. Any comments or input? Email: [nimbinwalk@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinwalk@gmail.com)

# MAGICAL INDIA

## Ironically Yours

Travel diary of the irreverent

by Dionne May



Luxman Jhula, near Rishikesh, 260kms north west of Delhi... what a magical place to begin my travels in India. Greeted at the airport by the beaming smile of one of my closest and dearest friends Julie. We have two weeks together in India... how lucky are we? Warm hugs, laughter and seven hours of excited babbling in the back of a wildly swerving taxi and we were delivered to our destination... an Ashram know as Phool Chatti, 5kms north of Luxman Jhula. Our one-week course was not due to start for five more days so we headed back to town to sample India.

After settling into our room perched over the river at the Hotel Om, we set off on our adventures. In five days we practised yoga with a variety of instructors from serene young god-like Hindi men to a 104-year-old Yogi who has practised yoga for 85 years. It's quite something to witness a diminutive wizened old man in his underwear wrap his legs behind his head and arms around his back. A hush fell over the room as he entered with brass pot in hand. He seated himself and emptying his paraphernalia from his pot produced his neti pot, a rubber hose, cloth and... a mobile phone!

We ate the most delicious Indian Thali and Masala Dosa at the neighbouring town of Rama Jhula, a two-km walk along a tree-fringed, sun-dappled avenue dotted with stalls and Babas sitting in the sun. Chotiwalla is a famous local restaurant off the tourist track. On busy weekends bottlenecks of people, motorbikes and cows are created by the two pink painted human 'Gods' sitting in the entrance gazing malevolently down on the clicking cameras, revelling in the chaos they are creating to attract people to their restaurant. Not that that is even necessary as the food is out of this

world.

Returning we stop to chat with our friendly Baba, buy him some chai. One day as we were photographing him we were surrounded by locals wanting to photograph us with their families. The Baba sits watching bemused, and Julie and I enter Indian family albums.

But it was time to return to the Ashram. As with our time in Luxman Jhula, we attacked life in the ashram with gusto. We rose at 5.30am to a full program of meditation, chanting, yoga, meditative walks including a memorable ceremonial bath strewn with flower offerings in the Ganga (Spirit God of the Ganges River), neti potting (morning cleanse of the nasal passage with warm salty water or for the really adventurous the rubber tube inserted in through the nostril and out the mouth), all mostly in silence on the banks of the roaring Ganges River.

It was here you would find Julie and I in our two free hours each day. Drawing, photographing, reflecting and soaking up the glorious environment of sacred river, rocks washed smooth with age, and the surrounding mountains, all mingled with the loving connection of a dear friend.

I continue to count my blessings and am humbly and joyously grateful for all my wonderful friends and family. Time spent in your company is time bound with love. Julie has returned to Nimbin and I settle back into my lovely solitude. For all my wordy ramblings I can't help but feel that my experience in India so far comes down to the one word my Baba friend said to me as he looked deeply into my eyes, passing the chillum... "Magic".

# Tinderbox time: know the drill

by Marcus Mantschaff, Nimbin RFS



I'm guessing not even those living in the cooler, evergreen gullies of these Northern Rivers can avoid the dry-change to the beginning of this fire season.

Water tanks are running dry, tender gardens are failing and lawnmowers remain idle.

Also hard to miss are the many paddocks and road verges of long dry grass and lantana. Offers to burn land for brigade training exercises are coming from many residents, however even the few written requests for assistance the brigade receives are proving difficult to complete, with the dry and windy conditions.

A recent brigade meeting saw another important issue raised. A resident observed a car fire and (later) wanted telephone numbers for local brigade members. The decision to call was a good one, but it needs to go through the

right channels to get the best resources needed.

In an emergency, or if you are genuinely concerned about a fire or smoke on a very hot, windy day, dial Triple Zero (000) from your landline or mobile and ask for FIRE when prompted. If your mobile phone was manufactured before 2003, you will need to dial 112, otherwise all modern mobile/smart phones are programmed to use Triple Zero (000).

The Triple Zero (000) emergency service operator will ask some questions that will help your brigade respond effectively. Be prepared to provide as much information as possible to emergency service operators about the location of the emergency. It's a free call, so if you've taken the decision to contact your brigade, stay calm and be as accurate as possible with the details you provide. Your information will affect brigade response time and the resources dispatched. The Triple Zero (000) call is the only call you need to make to reach all the pagers of your local brigade

within minutes, and of course it is for emergencies only.

There are a number of ways to keep up-to-date with NSW Rural Fire Service and local (fire) weather conditions. Visit online at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) and link to the TOBAN or Current Fires & Incident pages. Northern Rivers Zone also has a Facebook page plus Twitter feed, and you can download the official RFS "Fires Near Me NSW" app to your smart phone.

As for the continuing dry conditions across our region, we are confident in the support of our community. Permits are required for any outdoor fires (Nimbin residents phone 02 6689-1221).

### Brigade Meetings

Nimbin brigade continues to meet the first Thursday of each month – 6.30pm at the station on Sibley Street.

Blue Knob brigade meets the first Monday of each month – 6pm at the station, corner of Blue Knob and Lillian Rock Roads.

## trivia@thebowlo

### Questions

1. Apollo 11 had a crew of three. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon. Who was the third guy who stayed behind in the main vehicle?
2. In which state of India is the Taj Mahal?
3. How many frets are there on a standard violin?
4. Name the two permanent residents of 221b Baker St?
5. Who is most famously guarded by the Swiss Guard?
6. What is the basic time period of the Circadian rhythm?
7. To the nearest 100km how far is it from Adelaide to Darwin by road?
8. What was particularly notable about the author George Sands?
9. What do we call meat from young cattle?
10. In which country was WiFi technology developed?

Devised by the Nimbin Bowlo's Quizmaster, Marty

Play Trivia on Saturdays, 7pm

- Answers**
1. Michael Collins
  2. Uttar Pradesh
  3. None
  4. Sherlock Holmes and Mrs Hudson
  5. The Pope
  6. 24 hours
  7. 3028 kms
  8. She was a woman
  9. Veal
  10. Australia

## Living Dead



While some celebrated the Day of the Dead with a party, these kids from Tuntabale Falls Primary School trick-or-treated in full-blown Hallowe'en style. They got Minties from the NGT crew.

## Nimbin Crossword Solution

From Page 23



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### Normal Mon-Fri Week

Leaving	Arriving	Leaving	Arriving
Lismore Transit Centre	Nimbin – Main St. (Park)	Lismore Transit Centre	Nimbin – Main St. (Park)
7.00am	7.45am	7.00am	7.25am
8.00am	8.45am	8.00am	8.25am
12.00pm	12.35pm*	3.25pm	4.00pm
2.35pm	3.10pm	5.30pm	6.00pm
3.20pm	4.15pm		
5.30pm	6.00pm		
Leaving	Arriving	Leaving	Arriving
Nimbin – Main St. (Park)	Lismore Transit Centre	Nimbin – Main St. (Park)	Lismore Transit Centre
7.52am	8.50am	7.30am	8.00am
9.00am	9.35am	9.00am	9.35am
12.45pm	1.15pm*	4.25pm	5.00pm
3.25pm	4.10pm	6.05pm	6.35pm
4.25pm	5.00pm		
6.05pm	6.35pm		

\* Mondays & Thursdays Only

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by Pixie, fishing editor

Over the last couple of months, we the Nimbin Heads Fishing Team have had two trips away to Wooli. Always hopeful of hooking into a big school of kingfish and doing a good session of jigging up some hoodlums.

On the first trip we found them first up in the early morning. With Simon, Cal, Baz, Harry and Dave all hooking up to kingies around 4

to 5 kg and having a great fish fight as kingies always do. We caught ten nice kingies in the first hour, then the nice clean blue water changed colour to a murky green and the kingfish totally disappeared for the rest of the day.

So chasing snapper now became the target fish of the day and we were trying to find them all over the ocean without much luck, only pulling in a few pan-sized fish. But we kept moving from reef to reef and kept looking, for after all, there was a carton of beer for the best fish of the day. Then Simon and Dave both pulled up a couple of Nile snapper around 2.5 kg, but only to be topped by Cal with a slightly bigger fish. Then your humble fishing reporter caught a snapper, just a bit bigger and being late in the day, looked like taking the carton, only to be topped by Baz with a nice pearl perch.

With the pub footy tipping Grand Final day coming up, we donated the pearl perch, two snapper and a 4.5 kg kingfish to be cooked on



the barbie. So we had a great day fishing and a great grand final day and it's all good.

The second trip to Wooli was looking good in the early morning, with calm seas and a light breeze, so we were off to jig kingfish again. But it wasn't happening – everywhere we tried, the kingies were small, and with every drop we hooked up to rat-kingies. These are a great fight but every fish was being put back.

Then your humble fishing reporter hooked up to a 10.2 kg kingfish and so we had one good fish in the boat and the carton of beer was looking pretty good.

A freezing cold wind picked up and the barometer dropped – this was going to be a tough days fishing. Not a lot more fish came on board but we were still having fun because fishing comes first.

On the way back in, we came across a couple of whales in close to shore. A mother and calf were doing nose stands and tail flaps, which went on for ages and just topped off the day.

For you guys doing our annual Fraser Island fishing trip next year, there's only 216 sleeps to go

Tight lines, guys.



## Nimbin Bowlo puts on a great Continental Carnival

Nimbin Bowling Club gave a great reception to the 64 bowlers from Clubs all over the country, for a highly enjoyable weekend of bowls competition at the start of November. Even the weather was perfect for bowls, and all attending praised the organisation

The annual three-day Carnival has gained a well-deserved reputation, for the standard of bowls played, the camaraderie and the informality of the Nimbin Bowling Club.

The bowlers, all of whom were accommodated locally, made a colourful addition to the vibrant Nimbin street scene as they shopped for souvenirs in their team uniforms – after bowls, of course.

The well-attended function should help pay a few bills for the Club, which will be losing its green for renovation in mid-December.

# Nimbin Lifestyle

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