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# Nimbin Artists Gallery

by Peter P.

## Wearable Art

Can you wear art? I've asked this in a previous piece and, being a profoundly important question, have raised it again. But the answer is obvious isn't it? It's confirmed to me every time I pull on my Blundstones, but some may need to have it demonstrated to them. And there's nowhere better than the Nimbin Artists Gallery.

We have a team of talented local felters, knitters, crocheters, patchworkers and seamstresses who keep us stocked with a fascinating selection of wearable art. While I think the mobius wraps should come with instructions as I never know how to explain them to customers, I have no trouble understanding the four-way jackets. After all, that's how I go longer between washes for my underwear – inside out, back to front etc...

Susanne Walden has some wonderful felted slippers, and I think there's enough cold weather left to justify a pair.



Felt jacket by Melissa Hume

She even has some wearable art for your teapot in the form of felted chooks in her "city chick" series.

Drop in and see what fits.

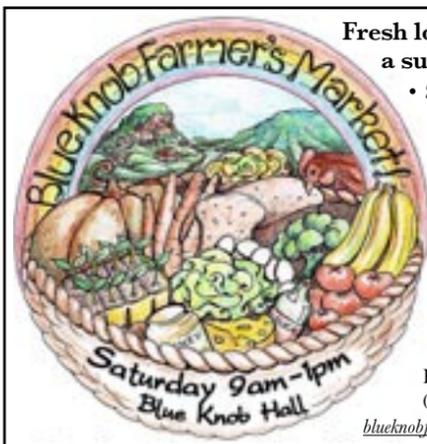


Felted slippers and chooks by Susanne Walden



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## Stripes... a touch of the wild

In 2011, wildlife artist Rikki Fisher spent three months in East Africa. Her journey took her from her home in Nimbin to Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda.

For Rikki the pleasure of seeing and photographing such an abundance of African animals was an amazing experience and a dream come true. Safaris in Kenya and Tanzania allowed her to get close to many animals including big cats, elephants and rhinoceros. There were the vast herds of zebra, antelope and gazelle too. So many photo opportunities!

After drawing and painting mainly Australian birds, the subject of Rikki's artwork now shifted to a whole other world (or continent) of wildlife. Her inspiration came from a long fascination from afar, but also a marked contrast

with her Australia wildlife subjects and the context in which she experienced them. This included the social nature of the animals she saw outside of Australia.

At around the same time, Rikki began exploring a new artform (for her) called scratchboard. This technique requires the "taking away" of the surface of the medium to form and articulate the image, rather than the application of material, such as paint. The process is not dissimilar to traditional sculpture.

This was a challenging experience for Rikki, but ultimately a rewarding one. Rikki won the Gold Award (best in Show – Open Category) at the second annual International Society of Scratchboard Artists exhibition in Vancouver earlier this year.

Since then, Rikki has produced a body

of work which focusses on her passion for wildlife, inspired by the exotic and perfectly suited to her exploration of the scratchboard medium.

Works of strong contrasts, the evocative nature of limited chroma and, above all, the celebration of beauty in nature are to be exhibited in Rikki's 'Stripes... a touch of the wild' at The Channon Gallery from 14th September until 13th October.

The Exhibition launch will be at 3pm on Sunday 15th September. All are welcome, but RSVP would be appreciated by Friday 13th September to: [info@thechannongallery.com](mailto:info@thechannongallery.com) or by phoning 6688-6322.

The exhibition comprises startling and beautiful work, and is a recognition of one of our local artistic human treasures.

## Fine local arts at the Roxy

The Roxy Gallery starts off September in bloom, with 'Spring into WAG', an exhibition of works by members of the Woodenbong Arts Group.

This group of artists possesses a lot of knowledge in crafts that have diminished in being 'in-vogue', and the exhibition confirms that these skills are still being retained

and shared through this art group.

The artworks display a range of technique and skills, with work in wood, metal, mixed media, painting, jewellery, fibre and photography.

Gallery Director Ruth Tsitimbinis said, "Once again it is great to have artists from the Kyogle local government area engaging in the Roxy Gallery,

and showing the community the diversity of talent and skills in our region."

'Spring into WAG' will be officially opened on Friday 6th September at 6pm and all are welcome to come along and meet some of the exhibiting artists. The exhibition will run through to 5th October, and all works are available for purchase – NB, Christmas gift shoppers!



Irises by Jim Grasby

# Blue Knob Hall Gallery

## A sense of place

It really is all about "location, location, location".

The ideal location depends on what is desired or needed. 'Location' can be anywhere, any time or any place.

The artists of Blue Knob Hall Gallery have widely interpreted the theme of 'location' and what it means to them in the gallery's current exhibition, which runs until 29th September

## Artist's & Friends Lunch

The Artists and Friends Lunch is usually held on the last Thursday of each month. The next one is on Thurs 26th Sept. Cost is \$15 per person, which includes a set vegetarian mains and a selection of desserts. Phone the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you're planning to attend.

## Silver Service Sunday

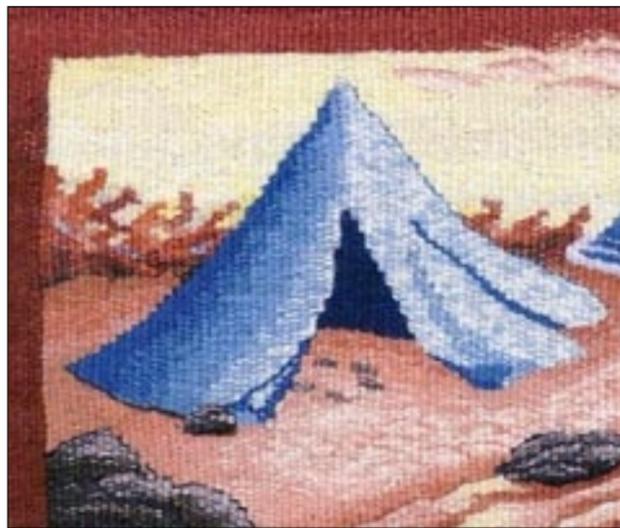
We thought we'd try something new. On the second Sunday of each month, we will be offering a beautiful lunch for \$20 per person. There will be a

vegetarian or meat mains option and two desserts to choose from.

Lunch will be for 1pm. This month, on Sunday 8th September, we will be providing some authentic Hungarian food to tempt you. Bookings are absolutely essential, as seats are limited. Please phone the Gallery by Sunday 1st September if you are intending to come.



Natural Perfection by Michelle Gardner



Here, there and beyond by Linda Whitefeather

# Spring Arts Exhibition heads up

The Nimbin School of Arts is inviting applications from artists for the upcoming Spring Arts Exhibition. The annual exhibition has been a highlight of Nimbin's cultural calendar for over 20 years and always features a diverse range of Nimbin's fine arts, crafts, photography, textiles, designs and installation arts.

The exhibition will be open daily throughout the busy Spring school holidays period from Saturday 21st September to Sunday 8th October, and exhibition application forms are available at Perceptio Bookshop and the Nimbin Artists Gallery. For any enquiries phone the School of Arts on 6689-1577.



# Weaving a way to peace

by Granny Breath Weaver

The Weave and Mend Festival will be held from 4-6th October in the Nimbin Community Centre.

While I'm sitting here weaving my basket on MotherEarth around the hearth, I look up and know that Grandmother Spider is weaving her web... the web of our Universe.

When astronauts go into space, the last living being they see is a spider, quietly floating around weaving, golden threads spiralling around our world.

She teaches me how to weave my own "web" based on my own story.

We are all one, all connected, like each circle in a basket is connected to the next circle by threads. Gathering these threads - fibres, grasses, palms, vines - we become gardeners. We walk country, our feet massaging Earth Mother. We

give thanks and praise for the endless gifts grown from the body of Mother Earth, assisted by the Elementals: Air, Fire and Water.

Our hearts' desire is to share our creativity with others. Together we can weave a Rainbow Bridge from gossamer threads - from the Fourth World of Separatism to the Fifth World of Peace and Enlightenment.

We can weave bridges across all wounds, no matter how deep or how wide. Thread by thread, row by row, healing and forgiveness are woven in, embracing our desire to forgive others and ourselves so that we can all be healed.

Let's sit and sing under the stars, make music, dance and share stories around the hearth together.

For more information on the festival, call the co-ordinator on 6689-7129.



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## A late cold snap

A late cold snap pours its vicious frost over the grassy lower slopes of Barkers Vale. Crunchy underfoot, the frozen blades of grass look like they'd be great fun to slide down the hill on, if it weren't for the rocks! It's election time again and the rocky slope seems to be rearing its ugly head on the political landscape too. I was interested to find out about the various parties' positions on composting toilets, and surprised to find a varied and diverse approach.

The coalition has released a dictum whereby all composting toilets must comply to a strict regime of construction and features. God Save the Queen must be piped into the chamber so that when the seat is raised, the heavenly voices of the St Pauls Boys Choir come streaming up between your legs to sooth the guilt of using far too much toilet paper (it's OK it grows on trees and we can just cut down more...). The music

has the doubly important function of releasing anal tension specific to the conservative mindset.

Pedestal design also gets a strong mention. Royal blue is the colour of choice and a counter mechanism is to be attached to the seat so that taxes can be levied against every bowel movement (this is, in fact, how the coalition will pay for the parental leave scheme).

Finished compost must undergo a sterilisation procedure whereby it is subjected to a liturgy of political diatribe by the Hon. Tony Abbott for a period of not less than one hour. It is considered that no life can withstand such an onslaught. The National Party will then collect the compost and distribute it to its marginal seats.

The Australian Labor Party have adopted a centre left position, which avoids the issue of pyramiding in the chamber. By shifting their rear ends slightly left, they believe they can avoid



View from the loo  
by Stuart McConville

mixing their excrement with the opposition's in the lower house. This results in a two tiered system regulated by the upper house where all important motions are debated again before being passed.

Unfortunately this can result in uncomfortable periods of lethargy and constipation. After a while though, the motions in the lower house become indiscernible from each other, whether from left or right.

The Greens have a rather forward thinking strategy. Carbon offsetting is to occur at every recorded use of the composting toilet. A

motion sensor and camera is to be mounted inside the toilet, recording the size and consistency of every bowel movement. Records will then be sent via email to the Dept of Carbon Recovery and Processing (CRAP) for assessment of carbon levels.

The household will then be issued with carbon offset certificates to the value of their excreted carbon, redeemable only when the finished compost is brought back to CRAP for recovery and sequestration back into the soil profile. Greens policy boffins are currently investigating the use of low light flash cameras that will not put the fear of god into toilet users.

It is refreshing to have such points of difference between the major parties. I hope that I have informed all and sundry of the choices available. We at Pooh Solutions are ready to work closely with the elected party to facilitate their respective policies. We even anticipate a hung parliament, and look forward to working with such members as can position themselves from left to right over the cameras...

## Plant of the month

by Richard Burer

This month we have picked an election special, by which I mean a hardy opportunistic and aggressive coloniser that can often like a shady location!

Common in the area: keep your smell senses in the air and be aware for the smell of spring as Sweet Pitto fills the bush with its rather intoxicating and dominant fragrance. This tree is also a favourite of bees, and the honey

produced is of very high quality.

Also known as Native Daphne and down south as Wullundun-deyren, *Pittosporum* seeds were quite a resource and ground as food by Aboriginal people.

This very hardy tree, growing from 3 to 10m, will just about grow anywhere and quite often grows into weed, so some caution should be applied when introducing it into your re-vegetation project or garden.



**Sweet Pittosporum**  
*Pittosporum undulatum*

## Post-industrial welcoming of lantana

by Geoff Dawe

At the tail-end of the industrial age, it is a common habit when arriving on rural land to begin, or carry on, clearing large areas around living areas in favour of lawn or short grass.

There are several reasons for this ritual: some people have concern for snakes, or that the bush will return and cut out the sun or come in through the back door. But perhaps the main reason is for the aesthetic aspect of grasslands, that may be part of an evolutionary memory that was positively reinforced by grazing animals occasionally gracing the cooking pot.

Ten thousand years after agriculture began, we are habitually reproducing the grassland vista in our backyards with minimal consciousness that it is soil degrading without additional fertilisation. Whereas once grasslands promised food, now the mini grassland in the form of lawns are actively engaged in removing it, by threatening soil.

In rural areas, on smaller lots one can see weed control

methods duplicating lawn areas. Instead of a smaller grassland, now it is the larger grassland of the rural. The thought in rural areas, that what is growing there now, is currently aiding soil, is rarely considered when Euro-Australian conditioning is that the bush prevents the growing of food rather than being an aid to it.

In rural areas, new settlers often clear for an orchard. Whether lantana, other weeds or trees, all are usually removed, piled or windrowed. The windrow or pile is often regarded as "rubbish" and still one can occasionally see them burnt.

The cleared land is then endlessly whippersnipped or mowed in an age when the use of these machines is dependent on allied troops occupying Iraq or Afghanistan and ensuring foreign regimes are compliant with Western oil demands. Peace is elusive when this is the basis of food supply.

Lantana is seen as the enemy whereas it is possible that in some communities in the south of Tweed shire, the abundance of the small,

marsupial paddymelons is because the lantana is the understory in new growth forests. These allow paddymelons to scurry through the lantana more efficiently than wild and domestic dogs.

In clearing for orchards, and using a gradualist, few orchard trees at a time, approach, rather than seeing existing vegetation as "rubbish", vegetation can be dropped and scattered all over the soil of the orchard area. Loppers, secateurs and perhaps a chainsaw remove all branches "sticking up". Or, commensurate with post-industrialism, a sharp axe or tomahawk might be used in place of a chainsaw in honour of the Brunswick woodchoppers who keep alive a greening art.

What is left is a mulch of perhaps a 30 or 40cm depth that may be made up of lantana pieces, logs of trees and their branches. By retaining biomass for soil there is the reversal of an aspect of what our grandfathers did. It is the new acceptance that what grows above soil, has no form of "rubbish" but is the

fertility of the soil in an above ground form.

The lantana or other weeds including re-sprouting trees that grow through the mulch, are the shaders of the intensive mulch on the ground, that holds moisture in, and immediately above, soil, to aid decomposition and inhibit fire. The whole process is more in imitation of the Big Scrub that early settlers found difficult to burn because it was too moist.

Clearly marked stakes are driven in among the mulch to indicate future fruit and nut trees. Enough of the mulch is cleared aside to allow planting, and intruding regeneration of lantana is cut back to form a hedge on the dripline of the fruit tree while resprouting weed trees are retained with pruning to bush height. Prunings are the constant addition of organic matter.

The long term aim is the same as for chemical-free bush regeneration, where the canopy of the mature preferred tree is the permanent provisioning of an area in which weeds have little niche.



Undertaking the koala survey in Royal Camp State Forest

by Philippe Dupuy, President

### Shopfront

The Nimbin Environment Centre is packed with goodies such as hemp seed oil, hemp seeds, soaps made using coconut, olive, hemp seed, along with essential oils – a real treat. We also have locally made jams, chai tea, coffee, not to forget Sea Shepherd products. Our busy schedule has seen us in Byron Bay to stop aerial spraying and Gladstone to participate in June Norman's message about protecting the reef.

### Casino Enviro Centre

Is making slow but steady progress. It is a place for the locals to come and discuss issues concerning the environment but also for the veteran campaigners to reaffirm their commitment. We are keeping afloat thanks to the Nimbin Environment Centre, RVGAG, the knitting Nannas and other donors. The volunteers are doing a great job of interacting with the community and keeping the place vibrating with good energy.

### Commentary

It's election time, and people will be reluctantly turning their TV off to go do their duty or incur a fine. As usual there is a lot at stake but most people feel disempowered and vote in a mechanical way. How can they be blamed when the game is about who can tell the biggest lie? Debates about a meaningless economy that can only make the rich richer, see the proponents spread fear and loathing for the unemployed casualties of this indifferent economy, fear and loathing for opponents of an irrational and self destructing mining industry, fear and loathing for victims of wars (orchestrated by our own government) who in desperation come to our shores, fear and loathing for animal rights groups who want to soothe the pain of these poor creatures, fear and loathing for protectors

who stand between them and the forests, the reef, rivers and lakes and the fewer and fewer critters that inhabit them and fear and loathing for anyone who dares to challenge the destructive course that they have set. In this election, as the others before them, we are.

Left with a choice of none and yet there is so much that can be done to steer the ship from a course of certain annihilation. The idea by an insanely rich few that to drain lakes, flatten mountains, scar the earth and pollute the atmosphere for more resources for mostly useless thing-a-ma-jig discarded in landfills, is a little outdated. It traps us in an endless cycle of destruction as if struck by mad cow disease. We can step out of this perpetual dance macabre as all is not lost for there on the horizon is a glimpse of blue sky. The movement against CSG is showing that there can be another way and ordinary people are being infected by it. Do not think that passion and sense of justice is gone in most people. Observe people at a football matches or cricket games, see their passion and dedication and just imagine this energy focussed on meaningful activities- it can be done!

So regardless of the outcome do not despair but get organised. Join CSG groups, environment groups, get behind bills like that of Senator Madigan who is trying to force parliament to legislate to give petitions teeth. We have showed in the last few years that people power makes a difference and that is why we are going to turn things around for the Earth, the critters and the people who inhabit her.

As for the election, both major parties are right wing, in bed with big business controlled by a handful of no hearts. So register your disgust by voting left. The Greens, No CSG party and others to the left are a better choice. By making them first on the ballot paper you double your voting power and send the major parties a clear message. *Get fracked!*

# Koala Kolumn

by Lorraine Vass



Spring is here; so lovely to be out in the garden feeling the sun's warmth, enjoying the colour, inhaling the stunning fragrances; watching the birds and critters.

The koalas seem to be everywhere. We welcome hearing those grunts and bellows through the night, but the phone ringing in the early hours can only mean one thing – another koala in trouble.

It's been a dreadful couple of weeks for Friends of the Koala's rescuers. Over a dozen mortalities in the past couple of weeks is an horrific start to this year's breeding season.

Spring is definitely a very dangerous time for koalas. The warmer weather brings with it the urge to move around; males in particular are looking for mates. In the Northern Rivers that often means koalas spending more time on the ground where they are at risk from cars, dogs and other predators.

The seasonal spike in road injuries and mortalities at this time of the year is particularly worrying because mothers are slowed down by young; thus a road-hit can involve two animals. The premature death of a breeding female in our dwindling koala populations is a calamity; the loss of a back-young as well, with its breeding life ahead of it could spell disaster. Remember, a 2% drop in koala numbers can be sufficient to tip the balance towards local extinction.

Koalas are largely nocturnal so night-time, between dusk and dawn, is especially dangerous for them. We ask motorists to drive slowly and carefully, observing koala signage and keeping to the speed limits. Many roads transect koala habitat; roadside visibility can be poor, animals appear to come out of nowhere and are often difficult to avoid; indeed it is not uncommon for a koala to be hit by more than one vehicle. Nor is it uncommon for an incident to be reported by a motorist coming up behind.

Should the worst happen and you hit a koala or you observe an animal that has been hit, please stop and check its state. We encourage motorists to carry a blanket or box in their car, for such an eventuality in order to contain the animal and remove it from the road. Stopping on any road needs careful consideration as does handling a wild koala (a swipe of those sharp claws can be damaging). Have our phone number listed in your mobile phone and report any koala in trouble immediately.

Spring is also the time for tree-planting, to link up existing patches of remnant koala habitat to create a more continuous corridor of food and shelter. Keep in mind that sometimes simply fencing off stock is all that is necessary for natural eucalypt regeneration to occur. If you do need to plant, make sure you go for a mixture of koala food trees to cover all appetites. Look at remnant eucalypts around you as a guide to species selection. Friends of the Koala operates a native plant nursery that specialises in koala food trees and they are provided free of charge to landholders in areas which koalas are known to inhabit.

The contribution that volunteer wildlife carers make to the overall conservation effort is



Ruby was recently killed on Ballina Road in Lismore. Ruby had been tracked for two years between 2010 and 2012. She spent a great deal of her time in the relative safety of the SCU campus, producing three offspring. Ruby was seen to have a back-young when she was struck, although its body has not been found. Please drive carefully and contact Friends of the Koala immediately should you see a koala hit.

often overlooked so the announcement by the Australian Greens in early August that they are developing a plan to assist wildlife carers and their organisations across Australia was a bolt out of the blue.

The plan proposes a national grants program administered by the federal Environment Department of \$5M per annum over three years to:

- Help subsidise food and medical expenses for sick and injured wildlife
- Assist with purchase of wildlife care equipment
- Support training programs for our wildlife carers
- Increase our knowledge about successful wildlife care and rehabilitation
- Support other activities such as 24 wildlife care advice hotlines and community education.

Early days yet of course but this is the first time of which I'm aware that a political party has recognised the incredible work that wildlife carers and their organisations do across Australia to protect our unique native animals. Pledging to work to increase support for the nation's wildlife carers, The Greens are looking for feedback from carer groups and we'll be only too happy to oblige.

To report a koala in trouble, or a sighting (live or dead), please ring Friends of the Koala's 24/7 Rescue Hotline: (02)6622 1233. For information about koalas, their food trees, how you can assist koala conservation visit: [www.friendsofthekoala.org](http://www.friendsofthekoala.org) email: [info@friendsofthekoala.org](mailto:info@friendsofthekoala.org) or phone 6621-4664. You can also follow us on Facebook.

To report environmental incidents, including removal of koala habitat ring the 24/7 Office of Environment & Heritage Enviro Line: 13-15-55.

## Want to make a difference? Look no further than your own pet cat

A roaming pet cat was to blame for the death last month of an adult Squirrel Glider, rescued from near Jiggi. Unfortunately, it's a regular occurrence for wildlife carers to rescue native animals that have been attacked by domestic pets. Often their injuries are so severe that they do not survive, as was the case for the rescued Squirrel Glider, which is a threatened species in NSW.

The Australian Veterinary Association has estimated that domestic cats kill around 75 million native Australian animals a year. Not many native species are safe from cats, which can catch and kill birds, gliders, possums, bandicoots and many other small mammals, reptiles, and frogs.

The extent of their impact is so serious that

the Federal Government has listed the cat as one of 16 threatening processes for wildlife, along with climate change, foxes, habitat fragmentation and disease.

Caring for the victims of cat attack is a distressing task for members of the Northern Rivers Wildlife. It is also frustrating, as it's fairly simple to prevent such attacks. With statistics indicating that over three million cats are now kept as pets across Australia, cat owners have an important role to play in minimising their impact on wildlife.

Bringing your cat inside at night is a good idea as many of Australia's small marsupials are nocturnal. However, if your cat is allowed outside in the morning they can continue

chasing and stalking local wildlife during the day, especially birds and lizards.

The only guaranteed way of preventing your cat from killing wildlife is to keep it inside permanently. Many people initially find this to be a challenging idea, as they want their pets to be able to access fresh air, grass and the chance to sunbake. For these reasons, cat runs are becoming very popular, and allow your cat to go outside but still be restrained. Nowadays there are many different companies specialising in cat runs and some can be ordered over the internet.

If you find any injured or orphaned wildlife, please call the Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers on 6628-1866. Check out our website at [www.wildlifecarers.com](http://www.wildlifecarers.com)



# Blue Knob Farmer's Market hosts 'Sustainability Alley' at the Nimbin Show

by Jim Arachne

For the third year running, Blue Knob Farmers Market is creating a "Sustainability Alley" at the Nimbin Show to showcase some of the simple, low-tech sustainable achievements that Nimbin is becoming increasingly well-known for.

The Paddock To Plate Café will feature a great light meals menu, with ingredients sourced entirely from locally grown produce.

A range of stalls will include Nimbin Hemp Growers, Nimbin Valley Dairy, Levity Gardens,

Backstrap Weaving, Djanbung Permaculture Gardens, Nimbin Natural Bee Keepers, Worm Juice, New Earth, Super Forest Plantations and displays of electric bikes and post-harvesting food processing equipment.

There'll also be stalls from Blue Knob and Nimbin Farmers Markets. (Blue Knob Farmers Market will still run on Sat 21 Sept, though with fewer stalls.)

One of the main changes in Sustainability Alley this year is the increase in numbers of talks and presentations. There'll be three main presentation streams:

## 1) Speakers Tent Schedule

Under the theme "Sharing Local Knowledge" local farmers, food producers and people promoting sustainability and self-sufficiency share their skills and knowledge. Talks run for 45mins and start on the hour.

## Saturday 21st September

10am, Earthships and the Future – Duuvy Jester

11am, Introduction to Organic Vegetable Production – Mel Edwards

12pm, Building with Hemp – Klara Marosszeky.

## Sunday 22nd September

10am, Natural Beekeeping – James Creagh

11am, Woodgas – Rohan Stewart

12pm, Farm Forestry – Mark Wright

1pm, Wildfoods – Peter Hardwick

## 2) Demonstration Area Schedule

This area will feature hands-on demonstrations and includes:

A range of fabric and textile demonstrations such as; Spinning, Natural Dyeing, Felting and Backstrap weaving as well as Biochar production, Using Medicinal Herbal

Teas and more.

This stream will conclude at 1pm on Sunday with the building of a Stardome by Steph and Shane.

## 3) Paddock To Plate Demonstrations

This area will focus on short food related demonstrations. Currently planned are: Preparation of fermented drinks, tofu production and by-products, honey tastings, hemp seed oil extraction and lots more over the two days.

Get up-to-date programs and more details on the Facebook sites of "Nimbin Show" and "Blue Knob Farmer's Market"

## Beekeeping news

by James Creagh

The unusually warmer weather has given a fantastic boost to local bee colonies as we move into the spring.

I have harvested a few boxes so far this season with honey that had probably been collected by the bees going into the winter. This is often indicated when it crystallises fairly soon after harvesting. In the market garden at home, I'm letting the Asian greens go to seed just for the pleasure of bees to enjoy. These flowering greens also attract many Australian native bees.

### Nimbin Show

The Nimbin Natural Beekeepers will again be joining the Sustainable Nimbin section at the annual Nimbin Country Show.

We'll be having a raffle with bee and honey themed prizes. The money raised will help cover the groups running costs and we are interested in becoming an incorporated association.

Look for the honey tasting at the show. We are planning on having tasters of honey from different parts of the Nimbin area. Also look for the lifesize bee that Eric created. It will be returning for photo opportunities at the show.

Nimbin's A&I is encouraging local beekeepers to enter honey in this year's produce competition. There have been very few entries over the last few years. Sustainable Nimbin also want to revive the tradition of showing local produce. It's not so much about competing, but about showing the strength of



our food security by making and growing food locally.

The Beekeepers Group is holding a colouring-in competition as part of the Show. Children from nine nearby primary schools have been invited to participate. There are three levels in the competition, being Grades K,1&2, 3&4 and 5&6. Nimbin Lifestyle Real Estate sponsored the event by printing the entry forms. Winners' Certificates will be awarded by the Nimbin A&I Society, and prizes will be awarded by the NNBG. All primary school age children are encouraged to enter the competition.

Entry forms are available from the Nimbin Lifestyle Real Estate office in Cullen Street, Nimbin and completed entries must be lodged at the same location by 5pm on Monday 16th September.

### New labelling for pesticides

With US agriculture facing one of the worst years on record for honeybee declines, the EPA has moved to protect

bees with new labelling requirements for pesticides suspected of contributing to the decline in bee populations. Neonicotinoids, the primary pesticide, fundamentally weaken bees and compromises their immunity to other health problems. It has also been reported that fungicides may be playing a big role in their decline as well.

In Australia, the farm chemical regulator, the APVMA, is researching the impact of neonicotinoids on the health of honeybees. They say the situation is different here in Australia as we don't have the varroa mite and the combination of the two may be making the impact on the bees greater.

According to ABC rural news, "A review is expected to deliver findings before the end of the year. Any changes to labelling would not be introduced until new agricultural and veterinary chemical regulations come into effect in July 2014." [www.abc.net.au/news/2013-08-20/nrn-pesticide-bee/4899272](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-08-20/nrn-pesticide-bee/4899272)

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the Nimbin Natural Beekeepers will be on 1st September at 10am. All welcome, new and experienced. For more info email: [nimbinnaturalbeekeepers@yahoo.com.au](mailto:nimbinnaturalbeekeepers@yahoo.com.au) or phone James on 6689-7575.

Bee Swarms - Should you sight a (European) bee swarm, please let us know asap and we can collect it. Contact Bayleigh: 0413-976-342.



## Weed Words

by Triny Roe

"Nature cannot be ruthlessly robbed and maltreated with impunity."

Thus spake Professor Alfred J. Ewart, Victorian Government Botanist, in 1909, as he conducted a plant census and published 'The weeds, poison plants, and naturalised aliens of Victoria'. He described the negative impact of invasive exotics on the native environment and agriculture and called for stricter controls on the importation of new species.

No new plant should be introduced "unless an official report on its capacities for good and evil has been obtained, and unless the report is a favourable one". Professor Ewart deplored the indiscriminate introductions of new species during the previous fifty years. He commented that some weeds came in ships' ballast and contaminated seed stock. Other troublesome species were deliberately introduced as fodder crops. Grazing land was devalued and productivity reduced as a result of the spread of certain weeds.

Thirteen years later, another 97 new species were recorded in the 1923 Victorian vascular plant census as having become naturalised and another 58 new plants had been introduced. Ten new species were proclaimed Noxious.

Noxious, or 'obnoxious' plants, as Prof Ewart called them, are the ones that overgrow, out compete, change the balance of species, seriously reduce productivity and alter water catchments and ecosystems.

And the plants kept coming! Throughout the rest of the 20th Century, many more new plants were introduced to Australia but not under the stringent guidelines advocated by Professor Ewart. Some of these plants came legally, some illegally and some accidentally. The list of naturalised species continues to grow, as does the list of declared noxious ones.

Botanist, ecologist and author, Geoffrey Carr, quotes the 2007 Victorian plant census as listing 1496 exotic species. Two thirds of Victoria has mostly non-native vegetation cover and almost one third of 'wild' plants are immigrants.

In 2010 the Australian Weeds committee proposed an extra 16 species to be added to the list of Weeds of National Significance. Twelve made it. WoNS are selected according



to their ability to spread rapidly and widely, and their negative impact on agriculture and the environment

The number of new plants continues to increase across the country. So too does the list of difficult to manage species, especially in Northern NSW where the climate is comfortable, rainfall high and soils fertile.

Ironically, some plants which were promoted for their ecological benefit and used for dune reclamation and areas of dryland salinity have now themselves become ecological problems and declared weeds. If a risk assessment had been carried out on bitou bush, *Chrysanthemoides monilifera*, (pictured above) and tall wheatgrass, *Thinopyrum ponticum*, and many others, they may have been prevented from coming into Australia or at least not planted widely.

Respondents to a recent survey by the Invasive Species Council ranked invasive species as the biggest threat to native flora and fauna. Lack of funds, awareness and the knowledge of the general public were identified as barriers to dealing with weed issues. The absence of strong legislation to control plant importation means potentially more invasive species could be introduced, adding to the existing task of managing the ones already making their presence felt.

Not all exotics are 'bad'. Every plant behaves differently. Every situation is unique. This argument is not necessarily racist or discriminatory against immigrant species. It simply seeks to raise awareness of the huge numbers of introduced plant species and how some can take over unless managed carefully.

Yes, it may have pretty flowers, therapeutic properties and perhaps the birds do eat it, but do you want it to dominate your property?

Happy weeding!

## Our school garden, an authentic space for learning

by Thomas Rose

"Spring is coming, Spring is coming,  
Birdies build their nests,  
Weave together straw and feathers,  
Doing each their best..."

This is the beginning of the old Spring poem, signalling the new and busy season for all of us gardeners (until Jack Frost returned to the area for a visit).

Indeed, we have been busy in our beautiful school garden at Tuntable Falls Primary School. Preparing for the arrival of Spring, we have planted dozens of seeds,

vegetables and flowers of all kinds; not to forget the children's all-time favourite: sunflower!

The seeds already have sprung up after only a few days, being teased by the warming rays of the sun and being nurtured by the children's regular watering efforts. We certainly need to water, having had no rain for a while.

The children will be closely monitoring the journey of their very own sunflower from seed to flower and back to seed in their garden diaries. The young gardeners will be observing, estimating, measuring, calculating and describing the entire

life cycle.

A plethora of authentic learning takes place in our garden on an ongoing basis. But a garden is also a place for other kinds of meaningful, non-gardening activities like playing, simply being, writing and reading, as well as finding inspiration and nourishment for the soul!

That fondly reminds me of my old mate Leigh, who says he "...doesn't believe in God, but that he feels very close to him, when he is in the garden or in the bush."

### What to plant in September

Aubergine, beans, beetroot,



capsicum, carrot, celery, Chinese cabbage, cucumber, lettuce, melon, okra, potato, zucchini, spring onions, squash, sweet corn, sweet potato, tomato, silverbeet, rhubarb

crowns, radish, pumpkin.

**Flowers:** bulbs, calendula, cornflower, lobelia; lupin, marigold, pansy, poppy, primula, snapdragon, sweetpea, viola.

## ALIENS, ZOMBIES AND MONSTERS INVADGE NIMBIN

The whole Nimbin community is invited to attend the 4th Annual Youth Connections North Coast: Nimbin Youth Film Competition screening and award presentation at Nimbin Town Hall on Saturday 14th September at 2pm.

This entertaining event will showcase the filmmaking talents of the Nimbin and district youth.

The theme for the competition is "It's My Life" and the diversity of entries echoes the diversity of the Nimbin community, with films feature zombies, monsters, murderers and aliens. Quite a mix!



Judges Paul Tait and Jeni Kendall of Gaia films agonise over picking the top entries. They have a firm set of criteria that makes it easier to whittle down all the entries to the top three. The films are judged foremost on entertainment value and the strength of

the narrative. Next, in equal amounts, are the production values; direction, editing, Audio and soundtrack. Each film usually has strengths in different areas and when the points (out of 100) are tallied the winners emerge. If you have never been to a

screening then get along as it is well worth the effort. The films are an insight into the minds of our young people and they can be educational, poignant or just plain heaps of fun.

The prize pool for the Youth Connections North Coast: Nimbin Youth Film Competition 2013 has been increased due to the generous sponsorship from the Nimbin business community. First prize is now \$300 with runners-up prize money; \$100 for second and \$50 for third.

The winners also receive a uniquely designed trophy to put on the mantle piece. Many other smaller awards are given out to highlight outstanding aspects of the films entered.

For more information phone Darmin Cameron on 0428-337-088.

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## Weaving our way through the year of the snake

This year at Cawongla Playhouse we have been exploring the year of the snake in a variety of ways – on a global scale, through stories, art and music.

At the start of the year, we began a weaving and threading project in the form of a 'web'. We began the process with a wool structure and have been adding more and more to it over the year. Materials we have used include what we find in our garden, natural and recycled materials.

This step-by-step process of weaving parallels the progressive, sequential movements of a snake navigating around obstacles. We have used this to assist us in supporting children to follow processes a step at a time, e.g. writing letters/names, stop motion animations,



playing sequences of notes in music, working through colours of the rainbow by looking at sequencing, pattern systems and so on.

Together with children, we have captured this project using time-lapse photography, still photographs, drawings and through conversations. Children have discovered different creatures making homes in our 'web.' We have discovered how the light plays with aspects of our design, how the wind moves and changes

the various materials on the weaving. This web has become an ongoing, creative project, with families, children and educators adding pieces throughout the year, reflecting our sense of belonging.

Our exploration of the year of the snake has also extended to drawing a parallel with 'Goorialla' the Rainbow Serpent. Children at Cawongla respond really strongly to this story and reflect on its characters and events often throughout their creative projects. Children are constructing a large-scale rainbow serpent using recycled materials, reflecting our practice of sustainability through creating art with recycled materials.

We look forward to continuing this learning journey.

## Powerful moments

At Nimbin Preschool, Elliot has become the expert on all matters relating to Spiderman. He has constructed drawings of Spiderman in his web with his friends, Mikah and Nhuraay.

Here Elliot talks to Diane about Spiderman:

E: Spiderman has a huge web and no baddies ever get out of his web. You know he's

alive because Peter Parker is someone who turns into Spiderman. He doesn't really know there's a bad thing sometimes, so he needs a spider dance.

D: What is a spider dance?

E: He uses his spiderweb. He flicks it out of here (points to wrist).

D: Then what happens?

E: Scorpionman gets trapped!

D: Forever?

E: No! It's so long that he can rip it and escape.

Scorpionman rips the web and escapes!

D: Why does Spiderman have to trap Scorpionman?

E: He's a bad guy. Spiderman is a bad guy too when he is the naughty Spiderman. When he's the naughty Spiderman he turns into Venom. There are good spiderwebs and bad spiderwebs.

D: Tell me about them.

E: The good Venom is red. The red things are good. The good Spiderman uses good Venom to put them (points to other characters) in goal.

D: What about the bad Venom?

E: It's black. The black Venom is bad. It can trap Spiderman in the web and then the Green Goblin can get him.

D: That's all a bit scary don't you think?

E: It's not for real. It's just pretend!

### Upcoming Events

• **Nimbin Preschool Annual Clothes Swap**  
Sunday 1st September at Nimbin Town Hall from 3pm.

Swapping starts at 4pm. Entry is \$20 plus a bag of clothes to donate to the swap – this gives you a complementary drink plus a new wardrobe! Yummy treats, drinks and supper available. This is a women's only event. All proceeds to Nimbin Preschool.

• **Nimbin Preschool Café at the Nimbin Show**  
Saturday 21st September at the Show from 9am.

Come in during your visit to the Show for a relaxing coffee, tea, homemade lemonade and something sweet! Children can enjoy playing in the sandpit or doing some painting while they're here.



## Tunable terrariums

"Are we making them today?" the kids asked as soon as they arrived at school. Everyone had brought in their glass container and a collection of rocks, crystals and miniature animal figures. As part of our unit on the amazing variety of life, the upper primary class at Tuntable Falls Primary School was very excited to be making terrariums.

After researching and writing the procedure for making a terrarium, we were ready to start. We layered

gravel, charcoal and soil into our glass containers. It was a good estimation lesson for measuring height, as each student was very keen to make sure they had the right amount of each material.

We observed the different plants – the strappy, dark leaves of mini mondo grass, the delicate waves of pale green moss, the not-so-fragile native violet and other plants with glossy, variegated leaves.

The children thought about colour, texture and form as



they selected the plants they wanted to use.

Mini-worlds were created.

Misty lost worlds of moss and crystal; jumping jungles running amok with monkeys; and dreamy, lush landscapes. They are beautiful creations.

What a wonderful way to bring the world alive! They will be on display in our classroom on the day of the school fete, so please drop in and see them – perhaps you will be inspired to make one yourself.

A lost world could be yours! Our class has made a most beautiful terrarium in a large glass jar, which is to be raffled at the Tuntable Falls Fete on 7th September. Could you be the lucky one on election day?

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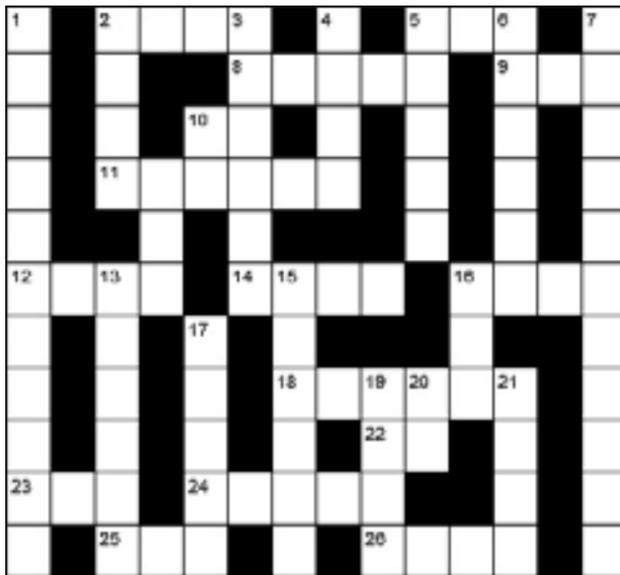
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# Nimbin Crossword

2013-9  
by 5ynic



### Across

2. Den
5. Global alliance of Labour unions (init.)
8. Greek anise aperitifs
9. Kiwi mate?
10. (and 10 down) All terrain armoured transport vehicle (in a galaxy far away) (2,2)
11. Hold your seat (as the incumbent)
12. Destroy
14. Correct
16. Sprightly, bold and forward? Erect
18. Political party espousing transparency, direct democracy, and digital liberties
22. Instant message (init)
23. Paddle?
24. Moral position
25. Political party espousing progressive libertarian values
26. Political party espousing legalisation of cannabis

### Down

1. Party?
2. Sly malicious look
3. Turn
4. Mexican rebel force fighting for land reform and civil rights (init.)
5. Laphroaig, Lagavulin, or Ardbeg malts, for example? Southernmost of the inner Hebrides
6. Not acutely, but wilfully ignorant?
7. (Performed) with sensuous pleasure?
10. See 10 across.
13. Buries
15. Parts far from the surface
16. Place? Option to sell at agreed price
17. Side building
19. Full-flavoured
20. Short-wave, long-wave, and medium-wave (init.)
21. He used to be a doctor? (2,2)

Solution Page 31

## Best Recipe



### Fruit of the Vine

by Terry Beltrane

A winery pays for grapes at the current market price per tonne received at the crusher and that price is based on the demand for that particular variety – fashion dictates while supply and demand rule. All grapes delivered to the winery are measured for sugar concentration (Baume) as this indicates the degree of physiological maturity of the fruit and determines the alcohol content of the finished wine (1° of Baume will ferment to yield 1% of

alcohol).

In the case of irrigated vineyards there is the temptation to 'over irrigate' to increase the tonnage per hectare with water, and more money for the grower, because grapes are greedy little buggers, and, like many people, will take as much as they can get. On the other hand, if a grower has consistently good quality fruit they are often offered a bonus price to maintain that quality and supply for the making of premium quality wines.

The latter was not the case at 'Shito D' (August NGT). The major shareholder of Chateau Douglas had a substantial vineyard adjacent the winery of predominantly Semillon and some Traminer, which he 'fed' daily with thousands of litres of water from the Scone river so as to maximise his tonnage yield. He pumped so much water into the vineyard that the skins of the Semillon were splitting from excess water. Semillon is a thin skinned grape variety and the berries split easily as they engorge themselves, also diluting the varietal flavours and raising

## Tunable's 40th birthday

by Megan James

Aquarius came and went – and we came and stayed, and built a community. So let's celebrate Tuntable's 40th birthday in style!

From Friday 18th to Monday 21st October there will be fantastic events and displays at the school and hall, with camping available on the property – and the opportunity to keep connecting over the following week.

The program includes a bush dance on the Friday night, a massive birthday celebration party on the Saturday night, a visioning workshop on the Saturday morning and a reminiscing circle on Sunday, with guided walks around the property on Sunday and Monday.

Tunable and ex-Tunable musicians will be singing at the school throughout, and if you would like to be included, please contact Meg or Biskit.

The pre-school will host a huge display of photos and documents from Friday morning until Monday afternoon, and the primary school will have video footage of the past 40 years running all day Saturday and Sunday. Anyone with old footage, photos, letters or other items that could be part of this display, please contact Megan by email: [meganjamesy@gmail.com](mailto:meganjamesy@gmail.com) – originals will be copied and returned promptly.

Tunable is an experience that many have shared, and all are welcome to come along and rejoice at our survival as a community.

### Fundraiser

As Tuntable gears up for its 40th anniversary celebrations, the Community Hall Committee is keen to complete the disabled access to the toilets and hall in time.

The committee has decided to try and raise the funds to finish this important project by holding an Auction and Raffle afternoon from 12pm at the Tuntable Community Centre on Sunday 15th September.

Several donations of beautiful art and objects of interest have already been made by the community, and anyone who wishes to support this cause is asked to donate something to raffle or auction, or come on the day and support the project in that way. Any donations can be directed to Biskit, who is organising the event. She can be contacted on 0429-891-462 for drop-off or pick-ups.

### Tunable Cafe Doings

Tunable Falls Community Centre Cafe is open for lunch Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 2pm with a lovely and inexpensive lunch available from 12.30pm. On Mondays, there is a playgroup that meets from 11am.

The Sunday Sessions – an afternoon of live music and delicious food in a beautiful setting – is happening again on Sunday 22nd September from 12pm onward: real family fun. Please come and share our beautiful community space.

the pH which create issues of potential microbiological spoilage during fermentation and subsequent balance and quality in the finished wine.

I call the "boss" and he says, "Terry, you're the winemaker, deal with it".

"Mate, this is going to cost you a mint in tartaric acid to adjust the pH and give balance to the wine," I say.

He says, "Just do what I employed you to do."

So! We've got 10 tonne loads of Semillon coming into the winery at hourly intervals and we're pouring

into bags of tartaric acid at a rate of 15kg per load and putting this stuff through the crusher and drainer

on a 24-hour basis, day after day. After three days without any sleep, even the ephedrine can't keep me on my feet, and I have to crash.

I hand the winery over to Phil 'Does' and say, "Just keep going as we have been, and wake me if there's some emergency, other than what's

been going on since we started here."

During my comatose state, and amongst all the pandemonium, a group of Sydney socialites who knew the major shareholder turn

up in their Beema expecting a winery tour, in the middle of vintage for fuck's sake.

Phil does the right thing and gives them a tour of the winery explaining the equipment, procedures and qualitative considerations in making some decent wine

in difficult conditions from inferior quality fruit. (A winery is generally 'gumboot' territory, especially during vintage with all the fruit detritus of skins, seeds

and stalks that need to be shovelled, forked and washed away while trying to

maintain some semblance of sterility within the winery).

So here's this mob in their Sunday finest, leather shoes and silk apparel, tippy-toeing through the mess that's a

winery in full flight, and after Phil's detailed expose, one of the women asks Phil, "What's your best recipe for a wine?"

Just a little flummoxed, Phil says, "You get all the boy winemakers on one side of the winery and all the girl winemakers on the other

side of the winery. Then you get them to move towards one another to join in the

centre of the cellar and the neatest and most correct entry wins."

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# Gritty autobiography

Reviewed by Warwick Fry

Rita Lowther has grown as an author since her first publication *The Wayward Child*, an engrossing account of her childhood in an Australian country town during the years of depression and war.

*Kissim Savvy* (pidgin for 'knowing your stuff') as its title suggests, is based on Rita's experiences in New Guinea (or 'Niugini' as it is now known). But it is as much about the adolescent Rita, growing up in country Australia, a woman finding her wings. Her account of life in New Guinea as the wife of an Australian patrol officer is colourful and fascinating, but that is only the second half. Much more interesting to me was the development of the Australian teenager we saw emerging at the end of Rita's first book, describing her deprived Australian girlhood.

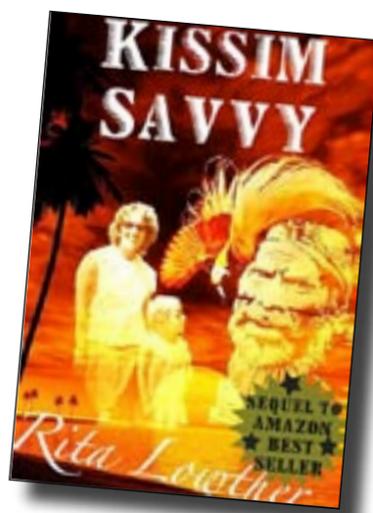
*Kissim Savvy* is much more tightly written than *A Wayward Child* – Rita has developed as a writer with a stronger writer's voice. It is historically intriguing because she looks back on her personal history through the eyes of contemporary wisdom. By talking about the girl she was, we get an idea of the

woman she is today.

The account of one of her first jobs as a nurse provides insights into some of the more conservative currents in Australian society existing today. Nursing toughened her, but did not harden her, so that she could look back and talk about the 'power hungry old biddies' who ordered her life, yet fall in love with a patient who fell outside the 'acceptable standards' of the Australian society she knew at the time.

A younger writer would have turned this into a classic Mills and Boone. Fortunately Rita sticks with the grit of hard-core biography, raw and unadorned.

The one flaw I find in this work is that Rita does not describe how she became involved with the man she eventually married. After the sensitive detail of how she fell in love with, and then separated from the Italian who was the first love of her life, I thought more should have been said about the courtship and the Australian she married. Especially since it was he who took her to New Guinea (after losing her inheritance in a flawed business venture) – the real raison d'être for this book. The man is an almost invisible



presence.

But Rita's experience of New Guinea is, in the most delightful way, from the female point of view – the bonding with the New Guinea people she worked with, her empathy, and perhaps a deeper understanding of the post-war heritage that lingered longer in New Guinea than it did perhaps in Australia.

And for those of us who remember the 50s, wonderful colour pieces, not only of the New Guinea environment – the coral reef, Mauam Island – but memorabilia like Malvern Star and Speedwell bicycles, bunny-rugs... Rita takes you back there.

## trivia@thebowlo

Devised by the Nimbin Bowlo's Quizmaster, Marty

### Questions

1. What do Opray Winfrey, Willie Nelson and Eric Clapton have in common?
2. How many strings on a soprano ukulele?
3. What is the capital of Colombia?
4. What is a Bombay Duck?
5. What is the smallest ocean?
6. Who wrote Catch 22?
7. Who was the oldest Beatle?
8. Who played Superman in the original TV series?
9. By what name is Marshall Bruce Mathers III better known?
10. What is an axolotl?



Answers

## ASTRO FORECASTS BY TINA MEWS

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS

### September

We have entered the earthy and pragmatic realm of Virgo in our yearly cycle around the zodiac. Balancing mind and body, or mind and matter, is central to the Virgo journey. Virgos are able to swing from a phase of working hard while neglecting their bodies to the other extreme of pursuing a strict health regime with lots of exercise. They achieve a state of balance when they have developed their analytical mind alongside with their intuitive powers, and are able to discern the amount of duties they can take on without becoming overwhelmed or stressed. Seeing the whole picture assists with letting go of perfectionism and an over-critical attitude, and lessens the need for escape when things get too much. In medical astrology, Virgo rules digestion. As food has to be broken down into smaller parts for the body to be assimilated properly, also our thoughts and emotions need to be integrated. In Virgo we learn about the interconnectedness of body, soul and spirit and the positive effects of proper procedure and ritualistic living.

We can make use of the energies of the New Moon (September 5) by initiating healthy habits. It is the right timing for a 'spring clean': whatever has lost its purpose - including ideas, feelings, or things – can be discarded, decomposed or recycled now. Mercury, representing our mental energy, reminds us to reflect on the power of words and the right use of language. How do we sort out, process and share information? The words we use and the thoughts that we employ are part of the reality that we create. During September fast moving Mercury makes a series of stressful aspects to Pluto, Uranus and Jupiter. We might find it difficult to judge correctly and could jump to premature conclusions. Staying calm will help while it is essential to wait until the entire picture has emerged. The Full Moon on September 19 in inspirational Pisces encourages us to combine logic with intuition by having faith in our own abilities and resources.

Planetoid Chiron plays an important role at the moment. Chiron was discovered in 1977, heralding the arrival into consciousness of many new aspects of complementary medicine and



wholistic healing techniques. Ever since it has been associated with the 'wounded healer archetype' meaning that each human being carries a core wound that requires healing. Once we have addressed, accepted and transcended this initial energetic imprint, we then can use the strength it creates and help others with their healing process. Chiron orbits between Saturn and Uranus

symbolising the bridge between social conditioning (Saturn) and conscious choice (Uranus). Right now we are asked to think for ourselves and defend our right of being in control of our own lives and of those who are dependent on us. Chiron is in aspect with Saturn and Pluto indicating that we have given too much of our responsibility (Saturn) and power (Pluto) to outer authorities instead of trusting our own wisdom and spiritual strength (Chiron).

The attempt of governments all over the planet to control grass root movements and trying to suffocate earth and life-affirming attitudes with scare campaigns, top-down policies and power games is expressed by the ongoing Pluto/Uranus square (2010 – 2016). Its ground-breaking influence has sent many shock waves through our collective and personal lives. Alignments between Uranus and Pluto have been associated with times of uneasiness and crisis followed by deep transformational change of the collective. We are in the middle of this huge global process of socio-cultural and spiritual-energetic re-orientation which encompasses every part of our existence.

The spring equinox in the southern hemisphere or autumn equinox in the northern part of the globe happens on September 23, a potent time for the setting of new intentions and a shift in focus towards greater cooperation and team work. We might feel the need to relate to others through creating harmony and balance. Grand schemes might pay off now. So let's be social and celebrate this new season of consciousness.

For Personal Readings, Transits and Life cycles contact Tina on 6689-7413 or 0457-903-957, via e-mail: [star-loom@hotmail.com](mailto:star-loom@hotmail.com) or visit my web page: <http://nimbin-starloom.com.au>

**Astrology Classes at Lillifield Community Centre:**

**Wednesdays:** *Advanced Astrology:*

"Techniques of Prediction", 10am-1pm;

**Thursdays:** *Astrology for Beginners:* "The

Astrological Houses and Aspects", 10am –

### Aries

Action planet Mars will be in Leo until mid-October, indicating a boost in energy especially if you have been feeling a bit low lately. Take extra care during September 7 – 12, because of a stressful configuration between Mars and Saturn, the planet ruling restrictions and frustrations. Avoid forcing issues and take a 'low key' approach.

### Taurus

Venus, the principle of relating passes through the intense sign of Scorpio from September 12 until October 8 indicating a possibly stormy time in your one-to-one partnerships. Be aware of power struggles or battles over shared resources. The state of "being happy together" entails the occasional conflict, especially if you do have the need of things to be super stable and predictable.

### Gemini

You might feel the need to be very particular about things right now. Especially at the home front you might be fussing about too many details while not being so sure about the big picture out there. It is time to get pragmatic and create guidelines that enable you to share what you have learned with the outer world.

### Cancer

Mind and feelings, head and heart can either clash or work together. If you experience a crisis in trust or confidence right now, stop for a moment and consciously monitor your emotions and mental attitude; understand how this impacts on your well-being and determines the quality of your life.

### Leo

Mars, the cosmic energy booster is in your Sun sign until mid-October. Initiate new projects that require independent action and courage, but take a low-key approach during September 7 – 12, because of a stressful configuration between Mars and Saturn, the planet of restrictions. Best to avoid forcing issues and take good care of your back!

### Virgo

Make use of the energies of the New Moon (Sept 5) for setting your intentions, initiating a new health regime or building up your skill level. Trust your intuitive powers and emotional wisdom especially in regards to helping others. Know when good enough has to be left alone and accept your limits.

### Libra

Venus, the principle of love and beauty is in your sun sign until September 11. This is a great time for being social and strengthening bonds with others. However, if you find that you have been too indulging, use the weeks before the Equinox (Sept 23) for looking after your body and getting into healthy habits.

### Scorpio

This could be a moment in time where new friendships are formed and as a result you might have to take on new responsibilities. During September 7 – 12 you need to proceed cautiously and avoid taking on too much. You probably have to work out what feels right to you when striking the right balance between giving and receiving, trusting your instincts.

### Sagittarius

Reflect upon your accomplishments of the last nine months and distinguish between projects that were successful and ideas that have not worked out. This is a good time for new beginnings regarding your career ventures once you have redefined your home-work balance.

### Capricorn

Right now you are searching for a philosophy that can stand the test of time. However, you might not always feel intellectually understood, so take your time explaining yourself. Overall, you are supported in forming strong and lasting connections with like-minded souls or for making new friends.

### Aquarius

Now it is the time to redefine the ways and methods of managing shared resources correctly. Maybe you need to confront your attitudes toward material things as a result of feeling out of control in regards to your finances, or even feeling taken advantage of by other people. Whatever the situation might be, you are urged into looking at things more deeply.

### Pisces

The organisational mode of the current Virgo influence might help with solving day-to-day tasks and keeping your feet on the ground. The moment favours cooperation in personal and business relationships. You may discover that you have real wisdom to offer. So, be confident about the value of your contribution.