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The Artist's Choice

This show is proving very popular, as it brings out a greater variety of work and showcases the wonderful talent and diversity of the artists in this region who continue to support this community Gallery.

The exhibition will run until 9th February.

Blue Knob Hall Gallery and Cafe will be closed over the Christmas and New Year period, re-opening Thursday 9th January.

However, the Gallery & Cafe will be open for the morning of Saturday 4th January during the Blue Knob Farmers Market.



'Koi Community' by Maureen Whittaker (detail, above)
 'Soluna' by Pollyanna Kingsley (left)

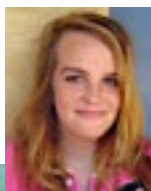


Young Creatives at Nimbin Artists Gallery

by Pauline Ahern

The Nimbin Artists Gallery are pleased to showcase some works by students of Nimbin Central School. Check out the foyer of the gallery, the students have used a range of mediums including paint, ink, pencil, collage, photography and wearable art.

These art works give you an idea of the high quality workmanship



Abby Bowman Year 6

the students of Nimbin Central have created this year.

The Gallery has committed to encourage young artists at the school by providing two \$50 voucher awards for art materials each year. At the School Presentation Assembly in December 2013, the Primary School recipient of the award was Abbie Bowman, the secondary school award winner was Jai Anderson.

Congratulations to both students, both have interesting and individualistic work hanging in the gallery foyer.

Pop in for a visit, bring your guests and marvel at the range of creations by local artists.

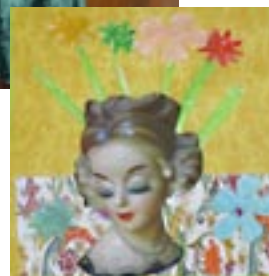
We are in the process of creating 'Gift Vouchers', no upper limit, this may make it easier if you want to give a loved one a present from the gallery but agonise over which piece of unique art to buy, give a 'Gift Voucher' and see what happens.

From the Committee and Volunteers of the Nimbin Artists Gallery we wish you all a very Healthy and Happy 2014 and look forward to seeing you all this year.



Jazlyn Douglas, Year 10

Layla Hurley, Year 2



Jai Anderson, Year 10

Worth a look...



Photo: Brian Alexander

Originally from Fujian province in China, 56-year old artist Cai Guo-Qiang has become established over the past 25 years as one of the most innovative figures in contemporary art, especially notable for his large-scale installations and explosive events.

The exhibition 'Falling Back to Earth' features four of his major installations, including *Heritage 2013* (pictured), which depicts replicas of 99 animals from around the world, gathered together to drink from a lake.

"A beautiful and thought-provoking vision of our relationship with the earth and with each other - it is the must-see exhibition of the summer." - GOMA

This is Cai Guo-Qiang's first solo exhibition in Australia, and is exclusive to GOMA, Stanley Place, South Bank, Brisbane. It runs until 11th May.

Nimbin does Christmas



Photo: Heidi Glover



Santa arriving at the hall for the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre's Christmas lunch. And Santa is smitten.



Alex receives a gift from Santa and his Helper, Pam Pusycat

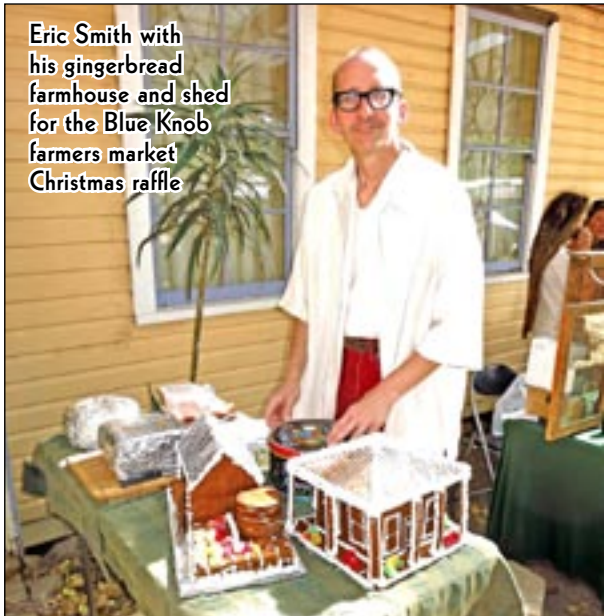


RFS Christmas bash at the Bowlo



Nimbin Aboriginal Cultural Centre Christmas lunch

Photo: Thorsten Jones



Eric Smith with his gingerbread farmhouse and shed for the Blue Knob farmers market Christmas raffle



Sera mey yerpa Tibetan monk with helpers working on sand mandala in the hall

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Sunday Gig Guide

January *2pm start

5th Southerly Change
Catchy, melody rich, islander flavoured world music.

12th Marcus Corowa
Marcus's combines elements of blues, jazz and funk to create a distinct and unique soulful, soothing sound.

19th Laura Hill
Music lovers from around the globe have awoken to this Australian songbird's undeniable talent as a melodic songwriter and performer.

26th Kyle Lionhart
Kyle is a folk/ folk-rock artist from Byron Bay.

February 2nd Luke Yeamen
His music is anchored in a commitment to a lyrical message, decorated with melodic meanderings

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January Gigs

Thursday 2nd	6pm	Surf Report
Friday 3rd	7.30pm	Rob Yateman & Darklight
Saturday 4th	6.30pm	Gavin Doniger
Sunday 5th	5pm	AGE 6
Thursday 9th	6pm	Simon Meola
Friday 10th	7.30pm	Monster Guitars
Sat 11th	6pm	Mark Hilton
Sun 12th	5pm	Mick Jiggles
Thursday 16th	6pm	Kelli Knight
Friday 17th	7.30pm	Hoochers
Saturday 18th	6pm	TBA
Sunday 19th	5pm	Brent Calcutt
Thursday 23rd	6pm	Bo Jenkins
Friday 24th	7.30pm	Burbon and Ink
Saturday 25th	6.30pm	TBA
Sunday 26th	5pm	Grandmaster Monk
Thursday 30th	6.30pm	Richie Williams
Friday 31st	7.30pm	Split Chickens

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Lobbying elites: fast-track to extinction

by Robert J. Burrowes



Is lobbying elites to change their behaviour an effective strategy for change?

My experience is that it's a complete waste of time and that a strategy that focuses on inviting ordinary individuals and groups to take action in the desired direction is far more effective.

Why do I say this? Mainstream political processes are usually described as "democratic", which means that they are supposed to be responsive to and representative of the popular will.

With the passage of time and the steady rise of corporate power, professional lobbyists and corporate money have corrupted the democratic ideal so that the people's representatives are no longer responsive to the people.

Corporations and their industry organisations, front groups and lobbyists have seized control of governments and key international organisations.

And other powerful non-state actors, including particular religious elites (including Zionism, the Vatican and Wahhabi Islam) exercise disproportionate power in particular contexts.

In essence, this means that elites will continue to encourage us to exercise our democratic right to vote and to lobby

because once our political effort has been so channelled, our dissent is easily dissipated and ignored.

Conservative political action groups of various kinds often play a part in drawing us into using ineffective strategies and we need to be aware of the part they are playing on behalf of elite interests even if this is simply the result of an inadequate political analysis.

Any organisation committed to genuine grassroots empowerment and mobilisation would not waste its time lobbying delegates at a UN conference given that the UN was captured by elite interests a long time ago.

A casual perusal of UN decisions will reveal that its orientation is to serve elite interests, whatever flowery rhetoric fills the pages of various UN documents, and when the UN Security Council sometimes makes a move in the direction of justice (for example, on Palestine), the US government will usually exercise its veto.

The paramilitary response coordinated by national elites to thwart the Occupy movement illustrates how much they fear genuine grassroots mobilisation, so we can draw some useful lessons on how to improve our strategy.

For example, good non-violent strategists have long been aware that tactics involving concentration (where many activists are gathered in the same place, perhaps attending a large rally) are more vulnerable to military/police repression than are tactics utilising dispersion (where activists participate without gathering in large numbers).

This is because it is much easier to direct repressive violence at a crowd than it is by going door-to-door.

Hence, while gathering people in large numbers can be exciting and empowering when it happens occasionally the strategic reality is that most of our struggle for peace, justice and environmental sustainability must take place ongoingly, at a mundane level, in our daily lives.

Paradoxically, perhaps, virtually all of this struggle can be conducted without risk of any kind, especially if enough of us participate.

In short, the evidence teaches us that elites want us to lobby (or vote for) them so that they can ignore us, and that mobilisations that concentrate people in one place, while appropriate in some circumstances, provide easy targets for repression.

So we need to develop strategies that primarily allow us to organise collectively in small local groups, to work with people whose values we share, which mobilize new participants in an empowering way, while minimizing the opportunities for military and police repression.

So if you are someone who is inclined to take action yourself, rather than to politely ask your oppressor to go easy on you for a change, then you are welcome to plan or be part of effective non-violent strategies that will ultimately be decisive in shaping our future.

If you don't know one of these groups already, you might consider setting up a Flame Tree group in your household, street or neighbourhood.

See: <http://tinyurl.com/flametree>

Plant of the month

Giant Water Gum Syzygium francisii

by Richard Burer

Giant Water Gum is one of my most favourite trees – it has beauty, stature, is graceful and big. It is prominently buttressed at its base, and has smooth brown bark that has irregular depressions, making this a very noticeable and attractive local rainforest tree.

This tree grows to around 45metres, its dense, compact crown providing shade in the rainforest or offering you a place to rest by one of our many local

swimming holes.

Giant Water Gum is often a species of creekside vegetation, and you might see one when walking or swimming along the local waterways, as this tree is very common in the area.

This species pictured is found in a paddock adjacent to the road under Nimbin Rocks, keep an eye out for the purple blue berry which will start to ripen towards the end of this month.

Easy to propagate: clean pulp off fruit and sow. To grow in the garden and on the farm, I have found it particularly slow-growing in the dryer areas and is better suited to wetter gullies on volcanic soils where it is slow, but very rewarding as the flush of new red/pink



growth in spring is outstanding. This species is also a great tub plant.

Fiery Antipodian Devils

The dark arts of a Tassy kid's humour with tales

by Thom Culpeper

"The Devils ate Dad and grew Mum's Basil," Rory offered. "The strong sweet smelling Basil, the bushy sort with the tiny leaves."

He remembered she'd told others: "The herb called, by some gardeners, 'Aristotle's Basil.'" Mum's plants were that sort of thing.

She called it by a French name, she'd been growing and 'keeping' it for years, selecting carefully for ever smaller leaves

And a round flat-ball like plant-form, Mum said it was called after a custard slice, she said, she had had to prepare in France, where she'd been a Pastry apprentice in Aix en Provence during the sixties.

"Les mille feuilles, Basil," she told us. It was called 'A Thousand Leaves,' in English,

and she'd bought home some seed of it.

The 'Charcuteries', the pork butchers, used it, together with Fennel and Marjoram, to prepare a Pork sausage, 'Pudin Blanc,' she said.

Then she swore,.... "***333@@ Merde!"

"Why would anyone want to pinch my precious Basil? Your Dad's missing and now my Basil's gone."

That morning Dad had gone to the garden to do an 'imperative' job, as he said, before he'd gone out to check the 'field' cameras that he'd set up to photograph some Devils... on a Sunday Arvo on 15th March, 2001. "The 'Ides'...", "The Ides of March'...", Rory thought, recalling his last Latin class.

Dad hadn't come home by the night, so at daybreak the men set out to find him. They



searched all over, for him, for days.

Well, to make a long story short, they didn't find him that winter. Or the Spring and the following Summer, or the next summer.

Some wags had it that "Jack's done a Harold Holt." Mum was once heard to say to his sister, "Do you think Jack's, bolted, Sybil, or just gone walkabout?"

She replied, "No, Gwyneth, not a bolt. No, Jack's solid, He's not that sort!"

Mum said, "Well, I still hope he had, anyway. Then he might've come back sometime, for the kids and

my sake!"

That following spring, a bushwalking Botanist reported that he had seen in a place, at the side of a lake, a pile of bones, lying amid a bed of unusual plants, plants he believed to be a peculiar form of Basil, resplendent with very tiny leaves,

It was near what appeared to be a devil's den! Two old Leicas lay nearby!

When Mum had a chance to talk to the botanist some time later, she asked him, "Were the plants really Basil?"

He said, "I feel sure they are."

"Are?" mum asked.

"Yes," he said and with that, he placed a small envelope in her hand. "I dried the seeds properly."

At this, she, with welling eyes, said, "You have a knowing heart. Oh, from my heart, thank you so much. Thank you, thank you, dear, dear Man".

Watch out for native animals

Northern Rivers Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service (WIRES) is calling on the community to take an active role in helping to reduce the number incidents between motor vehicles and native animals over the holidays.

Roads with very little street lighting, and reasonably dense bushland on either side are hot spots for incidents between vehicles and animals.

WIRES is asking drivers to proceed through roads like these with caution. Native animals can dart out quickly from dark, dense bushland and suddenly be in your path.

During 2013, over 800 animals came into WIRES care as a result of motor vehicles incidents in the Northern Rivers. These have included animals which have been orphaned such as brush-tailed possums, ring-tailed possums, wombats, swamp wallaby and Eastern Grey Kangaroo joeys.

It is important for people to report animals that potentially have joeys in their pouches so that we may rescue them as soon as possible.

Wallaby, possum, wallaroo and wombat joeys may remain living for several days in a dead mother's pouch after it has died. When a joey is found uninjured and healthy, WIRES has a high success rate of raising them and releasing them back into the wild.

It is often difficult or unsafe for cars to stop and for drivers to check pouches



Rescued brushtail possum Photo: Sue Ulyatt

themselves, but WIRES can check the animals if we are notified.

Our service to the community is here and we encourage people to call the hotline on 6628-1898.

To make a donation to wires go to: www.wires.org.au

The next WIRES course for carers is taking place on February 15th and 16th, 2014 at Southern Cross University, Lismore. To book please phone 6628-1898.

Help aim your agribusiness

Kyogle Council is planning a seminar on value-adding agribusiness and wants feedback from local primary producers.

Council's economic development officer Malcolm Wallis said the seminar would have three main themes:

- Share farming and leasing – affordable entry for young farmers and exit opportunity for aged farmers.
- Diversification:
 - exploring the potential of introducing niche market cropping using the Toonumbar Dam water resource;

- exploring niche market food crops across the Kyogle Council LGA;
- value adding off regional/cross border produce;
- paddock to plate food revolution;
- exploring opportunities in agritourism.

- Food Bowl – developing cooperative, branding, marketing and distribution networks.

"I'm asking local primary producers to contact me if there are any other issues or opportunities they would like addressed or explored at the seminar," Mr Wallis said. "We want to present an

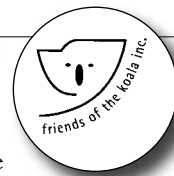
informative seminar that achieves practical outcomes and prompts action to create sustainable primary industries for Kyogle Council area.

"There are many potential agricultural or agribusiness opportunities that could be identified and pursued at the seminar – the real challenge is to achieve actionable outcomes with a solid commitment and ownership from stakeholders."

To provide feedback, contact Malcolm Wallis by 31st January on 0427-005-249 or email: malcolm.wallis@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

Koala Kolumn

by Lorraine Vass



Welcome to 2014! It feels very strange writing that in mid-December, even more so because I only just manage to meet deadlines, as Sue and Bob well know.

What to write is the question. It can't be the sort of Christmas the koalas gave us but I hope it was rescue-free, and yesterday's announcement by the Federal government of funding cuts to the nation's Environmental Defender's Office network is far too depressing. NSW's change to threatened species management is more of a mixed bag, triggering both support and criticism. Just in case you missed it, the new Saving our Species (SOS) program divides the state's 967 threatened plants and animals into six management streams of varying priority.

Heading the list in the high priority category are four "iconic" species including the Koala. About 40% of the rest will be given high priority but they will be site-managed in a handful of locations. 426 species will be classed lower-order priority. Some existing programs for these species will have their funding cut.

Spending priorities will be ranked to an equation based on the benefit of intervention in saving a species, multiplied by the likelihood of success, divided by the cost, i.e. cost-effectiveness analysis. A major proponent of this so-called "conservation triage" is Hugh Possingham, director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions at the University of Queensland. Hugh's a professor of both mathematics and ecology.

Government will invest \$4.8million in additional funding to underwrite priority "on the ground" projects over four years. A particular focus will be attempting to co-ordinate professional and volunteer efforts to protect and conserve wildlife and plants. To this end people currently involved in threatened species conservation work are encouraged respond to online surveys and to share information via a new web portal which will also identify volunteer opportunities and match people to projects in their local area.

Will SOS work? New Zealand is reported to have been successfully applying conservation triage for about five years. Of course a decision by any government to allocate additional funding for threatened species management is welcome, but it's a mere pittance in the overall scheme of things. Besides, here in NSW any gains from the new approach and extra funding may be undermined by the reviews of laws governing native vegetation clearing and of threatened species protection which are to occur during 2014.

Pepe Clarke of the Nature Conservation Council warns that "...extinctions will continue for as long as our planning laws permit habitat destruction and the state skimps on protection and recovery programs."

In my last column I mentioned that many of the koalas I spotted during the Great Koala Count were displaying visible signs of disease. Over the last quarter of 2013 of the 110 koalas admitted into care by Friends of the Koala 81 resulted in mortalities, due overwhelmingly to disease.



Tuppence, the joey

We have long speculated on the true extent of disease in our Northern Rivers koalas, believing that it constitutes a key threatening process in the circumstances of our particular region. We roll our eyes hearing the constant reference to road and dog attack mortalities being the real threats to koala survival. It's our experience that very often the reason why the koala is on the ground in the first place is that it's already compromised by disease.

We accept that disease is normal in the condition of any species. In our view however the very high levels of its clinical expression and the consequences of reduced fecundity and high mortality that we see, make it a direct threat to long-term population viability. The Chlamydia vaccine trials to be conducted by QUT's Institute of Health & Biomedical Innovation can't come quick enough for us, especially since we're hearing that the trials in Queensland are going well.

It's important that we all know what a healthy koala looks like and how it behaves and when it's crook. Here's a brief checklist:

Healthy koalas should:

- have a thick, grey coat
- respond when startled
- have bright, alert eyes
- have a full, rounded belly
- spend their time high in trees

Unhealthy koalas may exhibit any or all of:

- brown staining on their rump
- crusty, red or pussy eyes
- brown, dry, matted coat
- difficulty in climbing
- sitting on the ground unresponsive to their surrounds

Remember, Chlamydia can be treated (but not eradicated) if we get it early enough. Remember also that a diseased koala remaining in the wild untreated is spreading it. Don't hesitate to contact us if you're unsure about an animal's health or behaviour. Far better to err on the side of caution than to ignore that doubt.

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 email: info@friendsofthekoala.org or phone 6621-4664. You can also follow us on Facebook.

Environmental incidents, including removal of koala habitat should be reported to the 24/7 Office of Environment & Heritage Enviro Line: 131 555.

Happy koala spotting.

NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Philippe Dupuy, President

Nimbin Environment Centre

Last month saw a great win for those arrested at the battle of Glenugie.

The magistrate questioned charges brought against anti-CSG protesters as possibly politically motivated and thought police charges vexatious.

The NSW Park and Wildlife fire-bombed rainforest around Mr Nardi in August then again in October. This is a criminal act for which the community want retribution. Ruth, Gummy and Alan R. are working closely on this project.

Casino Environment Centre

Going strong and powered by the community including NEC, The GAG groups, the Knitting Nannas and many more.

Our volunteers have been extremely supportive, enthusiastic and dedicated. The attempt by Metgasco to open an office in Casino (pictured) was a half-arsed project with no vitality and spinning the same old lies. Their action has had an opposite effect and rekindled the debate. CEC volunteers and the Nannas have had a vigil in front of their office to answer queries by passers-by.

Comments

It's now over a hundred days since the Abbott government, thanks to the Murdoch press, gained office in Australia.



Photo: Jill Lyons

The pace of potential destruction since has magnified ten fold as federal laws to protect threatened and endangered species are handed over to state governments to do as they please. Yes! as predicted they are handing over on a silver platter the few remaining laws to protect the last remnants of wilderness. This is not to say that previous governments were better defenders of the environment, their tactics were to pretend they cared by offering negotiated outcomes. In a way Abbott's no compromise approach is forcing those sitting on the fence to act and act we must. For now the Galilee Basin, the Great Barrier Reef, the temperate forests of the Pilliga, Leard, the remaining old growth of over a thousand years old, the Tarkine and the list goes on, face the bulldozers of greedy investors. Our leaders are struck by mining fever, they have become delusional about growth and the riches of mining, yet everywhere there are warning signs. Almost

daily reports by pundits are warning of total collapse of coal and gas prices, of irremediable damage to precious resources such as water, air and soil. Are these deranged stooges concerned? No! They carry on like pork chops scoring cheap points and making laughable statements.

It is time to wake up, take responsibility and start organising ourselves into a well-honed movement to reclaim our rights to democracy. A well organised movement would make camp with the tent embassy in Canberra and present polities with a list of demands:

- Put the environment first
- Regulate big companies
- Tax pollution
- Curtail indiscriminate logging
- Restrict out-of-control mining
- Stop unconventional gas extraction
- No new ports
- Cut military spending
- Create solar plants
- Increase hemp growing
- Boost small business activities
- Provide public housing
- Revive rivers, estuaries and seashores
- Rehabilitate degraded land
- Set up programs for threatened and endangered flora and fauna.
- Create an Australian-based transport industry including public transport

Let the New Year be one where we set things right and reclaim true democracy, for we will not be sold for a few pieces of silver.

Innovation in weed management

by Triny Roe

"Making Money with Weeds" was the title of a talk by Dr David Low, ex-Monsanto employee, now Monash University environmental scientist, at a recent event held at the Wollongbar TAFE.

Concerned to see children tree planting on a site that had been laced with herbicides to clear the weeds, Dr Low established the weed's network: www.weedsnetwork.com to promote information focussed on NOT using chemicals in weed management. This website disseminates evidence based science via news feeds and a newsletter. Members can also access the Sustainable Weeding Guide.

The damage to health, environment, waterways and wetlands, soil and crops by using chemicals to kill weeds is immense. Super weeds are developing as generations of weeds build resistance to the herbicides. Additives in the herbicides, such as surfactants to increase wettability, are also toxic and little information is available on their effects.

Roadside and widespread spraying, including from helicopters, is expensive. Herbicide runoff, volatilisation and drift can contaminate nearby properties. The organic market requires zero levels of pesticides. Herbicides have been found to be present in European wines and citrus crops.

Resources are limited. Chemically treated sites require constant follow-up. Accept the landscape and work with what you have. Got fireweed? Run sheep instead which can eat it, or goats which will also eat a number of other weeds. These animals can process the toxins in many plants.

Dr Low rethinks the warfare and fighting weeds mentality. He calls for a



partnership with nature and to stop selling problems, like chemical usage, as solutions.

Dave Forrest, TAFE Organic and Biological Farming teacher, discussed organic and biological farming systems to manage weeds. He calls weeds dynamic accumulators. Some weeds can be fodder for stock. Cows will eat thistles, which are high in nutrition. Choose stock according to the plants you have. Biological ecosystems are complex and the system breaks down when plants are removed.

Chemical-free strategies include using cover crops and mulches. These reduce weeds, lower soil temperature and protect soil surface structure from damage and erosion. Macadamia and other nut and fruit farmers can benefit from leaving the grass to grow long between trees during the growing season. Humus and soil carbon levels are lifted. This leads to improved soil nutrition and structure, increased water infiltration, drainage and water holding capacity. There is more food for soil macro and micro lifeforms, including the beneficial fungi and mycorrhizal associations important to many plants. Phosphate availability and uptake is enhanced. Aluminium and manganese toxicity is minimised.

Stuart Hanna from

Richmond Landcare talked about weed management in rainforest restoration. Change the environment to suit the native plants. Take advantage of natural recruitment and aim to return the form and structure. Activities may also include removing native vines that can grow vigorously. Introduced species such as madeira and other vines, tradescantia and privet were listed as being particular problems, competing with regenerating species.

Chemical-free weed control can be labour intensive. Methods include hand pulling and digging, crown removal, raking and rolling, mowing, brushcutting, biological control, mulching, shading, ring-barking, tree felling and hot water treatments.

Camphor Laurel, introduced in the 1800s, is a very productive species. Widespread in the Northern Rivers, this tree provides good conditions under its canopy for the germination of many rainforest species. Management of camphor forests and returning them to rainforest includes controlling weeds in the understorey as well as native ground covers and vines which have a tendency to dominate. Selectively remove mature camphors as the native trees grow.

Happy Weeding.

First Fermentation Festival

by Eric Smith

Do we really give the process of fermentation its due respect? Processes that date before written history provide much of our food and drink, healing medicines, and even more.

Given the proper conditions, simple ingredients become bread, cheese, wine and beer, kim chi and sauerkraut, kombucha and tempeh, in transformations that make us pause and step in cycle with the world around us (they cannot be expedited like shipping on your latest online order).

The Blue Knob Farmers Market is having its first ever Fermentation Festival on Saturday 1st February, with internationally known fermentation expert and activist Sandor Katz (pictured), who is in Australia on tour, and will give a talk and demonstration on fermentation.

Sandor is the author of *Wild Fermentation*, *The Revolution will not be Microwaved*, and *The Art of Fermentation*. He is in contact with passionate fermenters around the globe, and is known for his great encouragement of all those around him to try new fermentation processes.

This is an open festival, with time for everyone to give a brief discussion of your own experiences with fermentation, successful and otherwise. Feel free to bring in examples of your own ferments of all types for others to try.

People are welcome to just show up and speak, but more passionate fermenters may want to co-ordinate in advance – please email James Creagh at: jamescreagh@hotmail.com

Not only is this an excellent opportunity



to listen to an internationally known fermentation specialist, but also one to get in touch with people in your area who share your passion for fermented foods and beverages, making our collective knowledge base stronger and creating networks for the support of local food.

Sandor's demonstration begins at 10am. There will be time after for open presentations and samplings. The market will be on as usual, providing not only fermented foods by local farmers, but also fresh produce for people newly passionate to ferment something.



Fruit of the Vine

by Terry Beltrane

Cheers and Goodnight

Firstly my apologies to all you good readers for being absent in last month's edition of *The Nimbin GoodTimes*. The vagaries of internet in remote areas makes for a poor bedmate, and I can tell you that there are some extremely remote, and beautiful, areas along The Great Divide.

I'm going to continue my travels for an indefinite time and so this is my Thank You to all of you who inspired me with your positive suggestions and the enthusiastic comments on the enjoyment you had in reading my stuff.

I hope that this next calendar timeframe is for all things good, happy and healthy for you all and I'll look forward to catching up with you at some time in the future.

My final words on wine: it's a gift from Mother Nature to be enjoyed with patience and, like all good things, in moderation.

Dividing line between uncovering the secrets, and human dominance, of nature

by Geoff Dawe

The thinking that plants should not transmigrate at a time of climate change and gross soil deterioration may be at least partially based in the longstanding belief that humans should take ultimate command of nature through the biblical injunction to subdue and have dominion over nature (see Genesis 1: 26-28) – the so-called domination mandate.

The ability to make physical changes to plant populations and associations has always been the prerogative of humankind, but humans were bound to remain within natural laws or the consequences would be, and ended up being, wholesale environmental degradation including climate change. The misinterpretation that humans were at liberty to dominate nature could be more accurately understood as Lahiri Mahasaya, guru of Yogananda expressed it, as human ability to uncover the secrets of nature.

At Findhorn in a desolate part of the north of Scotland an amazing garden was grown beginning in 1962, that was judged in 1969 by

Professor R. Lindsay Robb, consultant to the Soil Association, to have not been possible to grow given environmental conditions. Nature spirits and devas were said to have been contacted for aid with gardening information. The nature spirits also told allegedly of being able to use human admiration of plants to aid in plant growth. The nature spirits and devas were unable to physically move plants around and were excited with the possibility of forming a partnership with humankind. Findhorn tells a story of human re-membering of the association between the physical and spiritual (or parapsychical) in plant growth.

The dividing line between uncovering the secrets of nature without using those secrets to dominate nature, has been a human balancing act fraught with difficulties. The process of civilization was toward the organised use of technologies. The process has continued to this day with no sign of abating, despite the fact that the philosophy of increasing technology dependence is based in superstition rather than science.

The production of each technology requires

rationality and science, but the reason for the production of a technology and for its use, is based in belief; the belief that nature is imperfect or inadequate. There is no proof or science underscoring this belief. Western humankind weakens its argument of its rationality and belief in the pre-eminence of science by not attempting to prove that nature is perfect by finding means of human living that reduces resource dependence.

Since it is scientifically, empirically proved that there is an environmental crisis and it is caused by the side-effects of technology, there is a prima facie case (where it needs to be disproved) that all technologies create more long term harmful effects than short term benefits. In other words, it is possible that there is no such thing as an environmental technology and all technologies are inherently earth-harmful. The more one is dependent on them, or materialistic, the more one is engaged in earth-harm.

The dividing line between uncovering the secrets, yet not dominating, nature, cannot be found with technological dependence. It is

instead involved with mind-use, as mind-use produced technologies. But, in a post-industrial world, with the clever use of mind toward least physical manipulation of nature.

With a method of chemical-free bush regeneration (CFBR), for there are several, privet dominating in a riparian regeneration project is cut with loppers and used as mulch around regenerating or planted natives. The aim is toward reduced technology dependence and that is gained by eschewing 20th century synthesised chemical use and the energy involved in trucking-in mulch, in favour of a pre-industrial revolution technology and the noticing of in situ mulch.

Privet is basically an understory plant and with CFBR there is only time, and indulgent time at that, for overstorey or canopy revegetation in order to create a native dominating ecosystem. Time normally taken in understory manipulation is not available, for it is at home growing low industrially produced food as the primary means of circumventing at once, both habitat loss and human food insecurity.

Hospital Auxiliary makes Christmas special for Aged Care residents



Delivering the Christmas cakes and parcels for aged care residents on behalf of the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary (L to R): Maureen, Chris (nurse) Fay, Marceliena and her daughter Rose, with Trish (nurse) at front. Photo: Sue Adler

I ask you

How else to cleanse
the wounds of the world, than through
the tears, tears, tears and more tears
of the millions suffering.

How else,
than through the bloodshed
of our sons and daughters
at war, interned, tortured and displace,

How else, than through
the misery of wants and greed.

How else – will we learn
that – Hate, Revenge, Ego and Power
destroy – not fulfill
our rightful place.

Here on this magical planet
We call home,
Love, sharing and caring
for each other and the Mother to us All,

This Earth – is and will be the only way
we will survive and thrive.

– Gail M. Clarke

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Unique Place, Unique Education

Tunable Primary steps outside

by Thomas Rose, teacher

It is undeniable that climate change is happening all over the world.

Tunable Falls Primary School's share towards changing their teaching and learning climate is on the agenda for 2014 and years to come. In preparation for the next school year, the school has decided to introduce some fundamental changes in teaching and learning methods.

The leading thought for a new educational approach is the belief that the environment is not something that we address occasionally in our overcrowded syllabus, but that the environment is inseparable from us; indeed the environment is us and we are the environment.

Following on from there, we believe that that the single most important subject in the curriculum is life, and that learning by pleasure is the motivating force. Our objective for education is to grow green leaders, equipped with passion and knowledge and tools to build a sustainable future.

Striving to address these objectives we are starting to introduce an Educational-Outdoor-Program at our school, which will have one entire day per week totally dedicated to the outdoors.

A day that the children will spend "out there" – rain or shine – in their own environment, in their real world, to experience life with all the lessons it has to teach. It is an education rooted in nature, to understand, appreciate, and love Nature and therefore to take care of Nature.

In concrete terms it will mean that our children, living in one of the most innovative and creative rural areas of Australia, will be exposed (and involved) in this rich, diverse and eccentric community, which has so much to offer.

The children will be given opportunity to explore and experience this wealth and the assets of our community:



Benny Zable's banner at The Channon markets

the natural environment, its human inhabitants and their outstanding initiatives with excursions and visits of places and people.

The children will be sent on a journey of exploration and discovery, of meeting elders and visiting alternative and sustainable projects, helping and participating in community projects and experiencing history in the making.

The real world is the subject, their world, as it is presented in front of them rather than in textbooks or in virtual realities. All of this will be taking place in addition to another day per week in our already established kitchen and garden program.

The benefits of such an approach will result in greater self-confidence, independence, self-belief and increased awareness; a program like this will lead to respect and love for the environment and an insight into nature.

And the academic outcomes? Yes, of course, they will thrive by being easily linked and integrated with those real life experiences gained outdoors and to be used as motivational factors to reflect on back in the classrooms the following days.

An exciting prospect for Tuntable School in 2014 – you are invited to come and participate, if education towards a sustainable future is your priority.



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Goorialla graces Cawongla

by Leanne Logan

It's not every day that Goorialla – the great Dreamtime Rainbow Serpent – visits your neighbourhood. So when he does, it's memorable.

So it was at Cawongla Playhouse one twilight evening in mid-December, when Goorialla's powerful presence helped our little preschool celebrate the end of another fantastic year of play, learning, community and life.

As in the Dreamtime story, our Goorialla moved across the landscape of our preschool weaving its way between trees and boulders, through groups of picnicing peoples past and present, and into the realms of Cawongla's history.

As he moved – with the support of the children – Goorialla's colours sparkled. His recycled form and texture inspired.

His whole being engrossed not only the children, but the parents and the friends and all who were there. And his message was heard loud and clear: "You, the people, have to look after all the animals and all the living things."

As we studied Goorialla at preschool last year – and created our very own image of his form – we came up with lots of questions. Who used to live here before us? What was Cawongla like before the little neighbouring store opened a century ago? And is it possible that there really are ancient dinosaurs or other creatures buried underneath our playground? After all, we've only been here a few decades or so. The history of our place goes back so much further than us.

We felt excited at the thought of uncovering our past. And, as Goorialla



Photo: Eleanor Logan-Cole

charges us with, of protecting what is here for our future. That, and much more, will be part of Cawongla Playhouse 2014. With Goorialla watching over us, it's sure to be a bright year.



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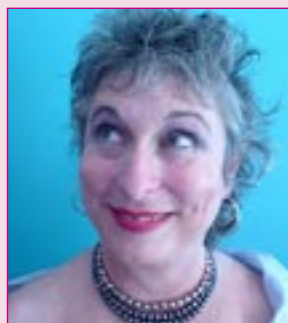
Tattoo You

The world according to...
Magenta Appel-Pye

I understand the desire for loved ones' names and beautiful ideas to be indelibly imprinted on one's body, but why can't they choose a simple Arial font instead of all this fancy calligraphy? I always struggle a bit to read their child's name or favourite quote.

What I don't understand are people, who, when out of it, spontaneously decide to get Popeye tattooed on their puny bicep, or a bar code (boring) on their neck. They need to think it over, sleep on the idea. These etchings are there for life. You can always get a temporary tattoo for a cool holiday look.

I proudly sport a tattoo that I received in Tahiti whilst there studying dance. I was lucky that my Tahitian boyfriend was a world-renowned tattooist. RoNui had tattoos all over his body, and I mean all over. That must have hurt! It was like making love to an artwork, absolutely fascinating. He has appeared on the front cover of *Vanity Fair*, naked of course.



One day RoNui said, "I want to give you a jewel" and I readily accepted his offer of a free tattoo. It tells the story of my life, music, my connection with the Pacific, and he cheekily depicted himself in there. We discussed the theme beforehand, but the image only happened as he was working. I trusted his artistry and was thrilled with the result.

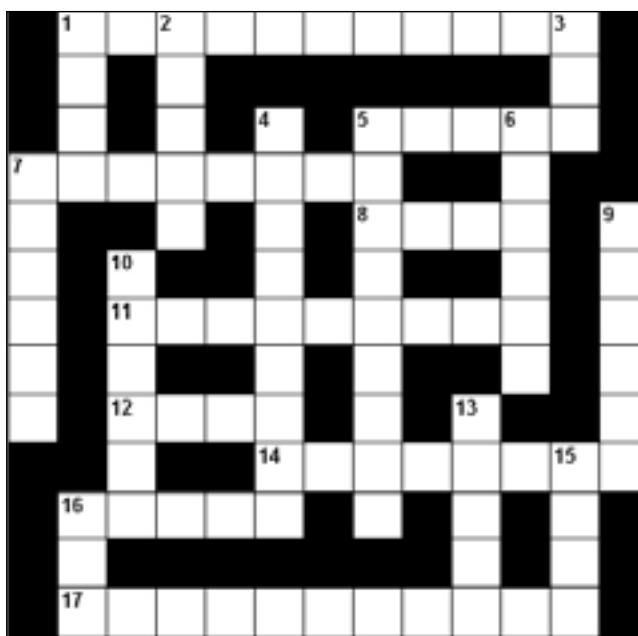
I rang my Mum to tell her. The scream coming down the line was so loud she could have been in the same country. "You're too old for a tattoo!" I was 38 and thought I was only now mature enough to receive a decoration for life.

I didn't tell her about the farewell present he later gave me for protection, on my buttock.

Check out my website:
www.magentaappelpye.com.au

Nimbin Crossword

2013-11
by Synic



Across

- Physical symptom of stage fright
- Jiminy's urn's returned
- Stout defence? Armour-plated steam-powered warship.
- Seductive woman?
- (Measure of?) Sexual desire
- Golden idol (lower leg?)
- Musician works the bellows
- First nation - winners at Little Big Horn
- First stage in (1across) life-cycle

Down

- Carry (child?)
- Long distance (call)
- Message in a bottle? Mayday call
- Bat, but not for 5 across (6,3)
- A point, won from deuce
- Investigative news story, revealing wrongdoing or scandal
- Bug
- Social insect – painful sting
- affectedly trendy (3,3)
- French delicacy
- Fly up
- Arachnid offspring pouch

Solution Page 27

Soulful and soothing

Drawing on his Aboriginal and South Sea Islander roots, Marcus Corowa (pictured) combines elements of blues, jazz and funk to create a soulful, soothing sound that is distinctly his own.

Growing up in Bowen, Queensland, Marcus' earliest childhood memories are of eating mangoes and playing guitar. He moved from Bowen to Brisbane with his family in his teens, and in late 2009 he decided to pursue a career in music, moving to Sydney in 2011 and winning the 2012 Deadly Award for Most Promising New Talent in Music.

Marcus has supported the likes of Marcia Hines, Christine Anu, Jessica Mauboy, Mark Seymour, Casey Donovan, Whitehouse and The Medics, and has notched up endless festival performances, including the Sydney Festival, Adelaide Fringe Festival and Deadly Vibe, turning heads amongst



music fans with his catchy melodies, heartfelt lyrics and silky smooth singing voice.

With the 2012 release of his debut EP, *The Greater You* through Gadigal Music, more and more people are catching onto the groove that is Marcus Corowa's soulful sound.

Catch him at Sphinx Rock Café, Mt Burrell, on Sunday 12th January, from 2pm.

trivia

Devised by our Quizmaster, Marty

Questions

- Who was the ancient Greek king who murdered his father, married his mother and ended up blinding himself?
- Name the Bob Dylan song that was loosely adapted from Child's border ballad "Lord Randal"
- What is the animal sign for 2014 in Chinese Astrology?
- Name the seminal heavy metal band named after a character in Dickens' *David Copperfield*.
- What is the name of the low fat, protein rich milk produced by mammals just prior to and for a short time after childbirth?
- What country measures GDH (Gross Domestic Happiness) as its key development indicator?
- Land Rover, Aston Martin and Jaguar are made in England but where does their parent company come from?
- What is the name of the metal neck rings mainly associated with the ancient Celts?
- What was the most popular name for baby girls in Australia in 2013?
- What is the more common name for Dihydrogen Monoxide, a chemical that kills millions of people each year, can eat through steel plate and is found in every cancer cell?



- Oedipus. Some say he was the original MoFo.
- "A Hard Rains A-Gonna Fall". Personally I blame the Chemtrails for all the hard rain falling in these parts.
- It is the year of the horse. One for the neighbours.
- Uriah Heep, "Very Eavy...Very Umble".
- Colostrom. Not to be confused with colostomy, which is something very much different and nowhere near as nourishing.
- Bhutan. By the time you read this your quiz guy will be there. I'll send you a happy post card.
- India. They are owned by Tara, the largest family company in the world. The Chinese started making "Great Walls". The Indians went a couple better.
- Torcs. The enduring legacy of the Celts seems to be red hair and boring backpacker tattoos.
- Charlotte. Also happens to be the name of Charlotte Yvette Gill, born 24th December 2013.
- Water.

Answers

Chook-cook stuffs up

Permaculture Principles
with Anastasia Guise

The axe falls, and for a moment there is nothing. And then, like an aftershock, a pulse of blood spurts forth, and the rooster's body goes into convulsions, its legs kicking, its body shuddering.

I hear the men talking inside the tin hut, as they squat on the dirt floor, catching the blood from a second rooster in a metal pan. Nothing is wasted – they use the blood to make a gravy-like sauce to accompany the chicken dish.

After a moment, my cousin

Mandi and his brother emerge from the hut, eyeing me sceptically.

"You all right with it then?" they ask.

"Of course."

They must think I'm green at the sight of blood, but it's probably the fact that I'm seven months pregnant and low in iron that has drained the colour from my face.

That, and I'm nervous.

I'm not religious, so when everybody else has wandered off to Sunday morning Mass, I am left to prepare lunch, for eleven adults and at least that many children again.

I have two hours to spare,



and two wood fires set on the dirt floor to work with. It's Christmas, 2005, and I am in the mountains of East Timor.

I sort and winnow the local red rice, picking out stones and weevils. I boil water, and pluck the free-range roosters. I remove the innards and use a cleaver to break down the chicken, then set it to marinate.

I wash and chop bok choy and kang kong from the garden. A permanent sweat gathers and breaks as I work. I heat oil and fry the chicken, I set the rice to cook. Things are going well, I am pleased with myself. I set the table and count bowls, plates, knives and forks.

When the family return, they are beyond pleased. They cannot believe it. The women

Nosin' Around with PAC



This photo of a lightning strike on Mt. Neville was taken from Shipway road with a 300mm lens, as I lived there from 1990 to 1993. The bolt coming down was met by one rising from the ground to create a big explosion above the forest.

blush and squeeze my arms and cheeks, pinching me until I am red. They hurry to sit and serve and sing my praises the whole agonising while.

This is local food, all grown and sourced here in the mountains. Along the sides of the road, bananas, coffee and jackfruit grow abundantly.

In city and village alike,

roosters of all shapes and sizes roam free, surviving cars, dogs and cock fights before they make it to the table. Local lunch is hard work, in such conditions, but rewarding.

And then we start eating. A silence falls. We chew. We chew that chicken, until our jaws are sore. Until our jaws might break. I didn't boil it

first. I didn't know. It's a jaw-popping silence. Mandi's wife is diplomatic. At last she breaks the silence.

"The chicken's like leather, isn't it. Don't worry. We can boil it up for dinner anyway."

Oh glory.

Who said permaculture was perfectculture anyway? Boas festas!



Photo courtesy: travelwireasia.com

ASTRO FORECASTS

by Tina Mews

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS?

January

The sign Capricorn and its traditional ruling planet Saturn are concerned with the building and maintenance of structures and systems. Capricorn is symbolised by the goat. Slowly but surely, a goat climbs the mountain. Once they have established a solid and secure base Capricorn moves through life, achieving their success slowly but surely. Strength of character is also associated with Capricorn and in some ways it is the most materialistic as well as spiritual sign of the zodiac. It is an Earth sign representing form and solidity, and the foundation that nourishes an entire system. When we separate Spirit (the divine) from Earth (matter) we destabilise and weaken the very foundation that we are dependent on for survival and growth. For Capricornians, survival depends on self-sufficiency and self-possession. They avoid being dependent on others and need to be in control of their feelings. However, they have a need for collective approval and have to get things 'right' regarding the rules and regulations of a given societal, religious or scientific framework.

The New Year starts with a New Moon in Capricorn which symbolically sets the tone for the entire year. Sun, Moon, Mercury, Mars, Jupiter, Uranus and Pluto take part in a stressful configuration called a Grand Cross. Planets are either in a 90 degree angle or opposite (180 degree) of one another signalling impatient and charged up energy.

The planets involved have a different 'elemental composition' and are competing for attention. Pluto is in earthy and ambitious Capricorn and conjoined the Sun, Moon and Mercury. This is a very powerful New Moon which urges us to transform those structures and beliefs in our lives that are unsustainable and unsatisfactory.

We might be forced to face our own shadows and fears, but at the same time could make a quantum leap. Pluto sweeps through old structures and systems with the motivation to destroy and rebuild, while Jupiter in watery and caring Cancer wants to protect home, land and family through laws that conserve and give justice to

our need of belonging. Uranus in fiery Aries is keen to follow its own rules, while Mars in airy, idealistic Libra is prepared to 'fight for peace'. On the positive, lots might be possible if we can generate enthusiasm and courage to clear unsatisfying situations. Nevertheless, it is essential to keep an eye on either wanting too much too fast or pushing impatiently ahead. These dynamic energies are best used for creative innovation and pioneering work. The Cardinal Grand Cross, which is active during January until July, will come to a head mid April. Over the next several months, structures, alliances and contracts are assessed for their validity and truth.

For personal astrology consultation and/or a forecast for 2014 contact me on 6689-7413 or 0457-903-957, via e-mail: starloom@hotmail.com or visit my web page: <http://nimbin-starloom.com.au>



Aries

You can't get what you want if you don't know what it is. Therefore, redefine goals and clarify possibilities. What kind of fruit do you want to harvest? Use this energy to work cooperatively on creating positive resolutions in your partnerships, instead of being in conflict. You may even find that you need someone's help in order to do what you want to do.

Taurus

You may find that what you really care about and believe in is changing. It is harder to get what you want and you could feel less satisfied with your relationships, because of your changing needs and preferences. Get in touch with the deeper layers of your being to generate new enthusiasm, which you will need for carrying through with your work and daily routines.

Gemini

This could be a very self-expressive time when you have lots of energy. Be careful not to burn the candle at both ends because of spreading yourself too thinly. It is essential to re-organise your mental, physical and emotional resources by revisiting what worked before as well as remaining open for innovative strategies. Encourage authenticity in yourself and others.

Cancer

Over the next few months, your energy will focus on domestic projects and family activities. You may be especially defensive and protective, because your actions are strongly governed by your instincts and need for security. Emotional issues from the past that are resurfacing now need to be addressed, which will allow you to create a new perspective in your personal relationships.

Leo

Right now you might have many plans and could easily scatter your energies as a result. Nevertheless, it is a good time to sell your thoughts to others. This may include more satisfying ways to address your personal habits as well as those of others. You might even consider taking better care of yourself, and transforming the necessities of daily life into opportunities of ever-evolving improvements

Virgo

This can be a very resourceful time, when you make the most of what you have. You have much energy for new projects, or for improving existing ones. Conflicts right now are likely to be over issues of values and ownership. This is a great time to become more conscious of who you are and your need to express yourself through creative activities.

Libra

Right now you feel urged to move your plans forward. However, watch out for sudden changes or opposing forces which could create conflict that might be unavoidable. Know what you want and take charge of your life by connecting with your own truth. Take a second look at your core values. What is really meaningful to you and what is passing fancy?

Scorpio

Use this time to research and reflect upon what you really want. You may even pay attention to your dreams. When you make your desires and wishes known in ways that are clearly understandable, others will have the chance to respond in the same way. Respectful communication can now heal, strengthen and transform important relationships.

Sagittarius

Your energy seems currently to be channelled into organising projects and group activities. Be aware that you might prefer to lead rather than follow, and therefore have to be diplomatic. Reflect on your values and use your resources wisely, as it might be not as easy to get exactly what you want. If someone is putting up resistance, a change in attitude might be all that is needed.

Capricorn

Right now it is essential to reflect on what you want to get out of where you are in the world. It could be that you feel the time is ripe to make a big statement and be noticed; or you could use this time to work creatively and produce something very significant. Whatever it is, you could experience unexpected changes that set off some sort of transformation and rebirth.

Aquarius

Right now, it is essential to establish a working balance between self-control and the urge to expand. It is best not to rush into any decisions. Try to be still and reflective, and listen to whatever wants to emerge from within. Leaving things alone to grow or paying attention to your dreams may help to move in the right direction later on.

Pisces

Right now, you easily could get involved in power struggles over values and possessions. However, you also might have to realise that you rely on others for support. Therefore, do not take things (and people) for granted. Rather be prepared to invest fresh heart-energy into your longstanding friendships and partnerships.