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# The astrological year ahead

by Tina Mews



The Saturn/Neptune square was the most important transit pattern in 2016 symbolising the dissolution process of inner and outer structures that had become too rigid and in conflict with our inner sense of spirituality. However, on the mundane level institutions and structures that gave people guidance, stability and a feeling of unity have also dissolved which caused distrust in the established ruling elite and ended in the call for a different kind of authority and control system. The trend towards a more xenophobic, intolerant and prejudiced mind set cannot be overemphasised (Saturn in Sagittarius) which coincided with the global refugee crisis and millions of people in need for help and support (Neptune in Pisces).

## The Jupiter-Uranus-Pluto T-square

The deep transformative frequencies of the Uranus/Pluto square have dominated our evolutionary development for most of this decade. Since the end of 2016 a new astrological pattern has been building in the heavens above, a T-square between Jupiter, Uranus and Pluto (active until August 2017). The T-square will be peaking during the Full Moon on January 12, followed by another powerful period during February 21-April 20. The seven exact squares between these two outer planets between 2012-2015 had the function to deeply break up and destroy outworn systems and structures so that the new paradigm can emerge out of the rubble. Nevertheless, the end of 2016 and the beginning of 2017 (until April) sees another activation of this ground breaking, at once destructive and regenerative energetic influence as Jupiter in Libra moves into position to form a square with Pluto and then weeks later an opposition with Uranus. Uranus in Aries demands individual space, freedom and the right to self-determination, while Pluto in Capricorn's agenda has been to curtail exactly this. On a personal as well as collective level, we have been battling against the implementation of rules and regulations (Capricorn) that infringe on our personal autonomy (Aries) threatening to take away many liberties which we might have taken for granted until then. However, Uranus in Aries is legendary for brave and courageous, but on the downside also highly unpredictable individuals (eg Donald Trump) who plant the seeds of change (or chaos) for future generations.

## The Jupiter/Pluto Square: The Power of Belief

*"We are never more than a belief away from our greatest love, deepest healing, and most profound miracles"* – Gregg Braden  
Exact: Nov 25, 2016, 31 March 2017, 5 August, 2017

The 12 year Jupiter/Pluto cycle coincides with an overall increased recognition of the pressing need for change in addressing various collective problems and concerns. For example we know that we cannot continue with the exploitation and destruction of the environment, that our behaviour has to change. Waning squares are the result of a cycle, where re-orientation and revision of rules must take place. Jupiter is associated with our beliefs, but also our search for truth. Jupiter in Libra is concerned with relationships, contracts and agreements which are under review during 2017. On the other hand, Jupiter actively seeks to create alliances and partnerships to resolve the current crisis and works towards peaceful outcomes. During this process we are urged to remember that our beliefs are culturally and socially programmed and form our perception of the world, whereas our perception creates our reality: Energy follows thought! On a higher level the Jupiter/Pluto square coincides with the inner and outer transformation of our thoughts, feelings and attitudes, empowering us to co-create a more enlightened world (until October).

In Capricorn (2008-2024) Pluto destroys and rebuilds structures and systems concerned with power and control, including the global financial system. Pluto is associated with our struggle for survival, including the riches and resources of planet Earth. With Jupiter squaring Pluto during 2017, we are asked to dig deep in our belief systems and confront those inner scripts to do with scarcity versus abundance, competition versus co-operation and fear versus trust.

## The Jupiter/Uranus Opposition: The Awakening of Human Consciousness

Exact: Dec 27, 2016 ; March 3, 2017; Sept 28, 2017

The 14 year Jupiter/Uranus cycle has been described as the cycle of the awakening of human consciousness. Each of the 3 Jupiter/Pluto squares follows a Jupiter/Uranus opposition. Once we assess our beliefs and deeper energies that run our lives, we can then embrace the liberating vibes of Uranus. The three opposition between Jupiter and Uranus promise

the opening of new horizons and creativity on all levels. This Jupiter/Uranus cycle began in June 2010 and connects us with the transformative processes in thoughts, behaviours and events that can be both highly unsettling and profoundly liberating. Uranus is associated with the Promethean spirit of liberation and rebellion, while Jupiter signifies growth, progress and expansion. In Libra Jupiter urges us to develop relationships that allow for connectedness as well as freedom. The more we can resist projecting expectations on 'the other' the more we can access the liberating dynamic of Jupiter and Uranus that is capable of taking us beyond previous limitations and barriers we had imposed upon ourselves.

Jupiter/Uranus will be active until October 2017 and can bring on the big break-through or break-down. Uranus reminds us that chaos is an essential phase in the evolutionary process when old structures have to break down before a new paradigm can emerge. The frequency must be turned up for the consciousness revolution to occur. Thus Jupiter/Uranus signifies the acceleration of the Higher mind & our intuitive wisdom. On the mundane level, this planetary opposition signifies the current schism and polarisation of various belief systems, religions and ethical codes. Any opposition indicates that something lost its balance and that a new one must be created. It impels us to move from conflict to cooperation by shifting our way of thinking. Uranus can give us licence to walk an independent way. However, most importantly, we are awakening to the frequency of unity consciousness and can experience ourselves as part of a much greater union, the Web of Life itself.

## The Saturn/Uranus Trine: Bridging Innovation with Common Sense and Manifesting New Patterns of Thought and Behaviour

Exact: 25 Dec 2016, 19 May 2017, 11 Nov 2017

The god of chaos, limitless skies and futuristic ideas (Uranus) meets with the god of time, restrictions and tradition (Saturn). Saturn and Uranus embody antithetical properties and have strongly polarised characteristics: Saturn embodies the positive agency of homeostasis and urges us to stay the same, to automatically correct any influence towards change, transformation, or upheaval. Saturn's function is to maintain earthy, practical needs, even at the risk of calcification or depression. Uranus is the planetary energy which impels us toward change and acts as the inner agency for experimentation, growth, evolution and individuation. The current 45 year cycle started in 1988, when the former Soviet Union commenced its major restructuring towards a mixed economy and began its gradual collapse. This was the precursor for the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the reordering of Europe and the entire world. The triple conjunction of Saturn/Uranus/Neptune in 1988/89 – 1993 coincided with the phenomenon of globalisation aided by the birth of the Internet. We are now experiencing the waning trine of the Saturn/Uranus cycle associated with the offering of new possibilities and constructive solutions for the challenges of the cardinal T-square. We might have a good chance during this year to manifest extraordinary creative ideas and replace old behaviours and thinking patterns with a new attitude towards life that bridges the past with a dawning future.

## Venus Retrograde: Review of Contracts and Values

Venus will be retrograde during March 4 – April 14. Venus turns retrograde every 19 months; every 8 years we experience a Venus retrograde in the same area of the zodiac at generally the same time, as she is drawing the famous 5 pointed star or pentagram in her journey through the skies. During the Venus retrograde phase, Venus displays her 'darker' side; her nature shifts from seeking social harmony into a period of re-evaluation of established social norms and personal inner values. With Venus retrograding through Aries, we can expect rebellious confrontations and stormy emotions within our relationships. On a mundane level, contracts and alliances between different nations or parties could be re-examined or even abolished. Therefore, the entire Venus retrograde period can coincide with break-downs of partnerships and emotional separations, as we review our alliances, feelings of self-worth, personal needs and values during these 6 weeks. This Venus retrograde period coincides with Jupiter retrograde (Feb 6 – June 9) and could impact negatively on economics and finances, because the two beneficiaries of the cosmos are in slow motion. On the positive, Venus is the brightest planet in our sky, fuels our imagination and creativity. She is the force of creative intelligence and at each conjunction with the Sun (March 25) she becomes impregnated with a new seed of potentiality.

## Eclipses & Moon Nodes 2017

Lunar Eclipse: 11 Feb      Solar Eclipse: 26 Feb  
Lunar Eclipse: 7 August      Solar Total Eclipse: 21 August

The two eclipse seasons of the year are in February and August; like always, life speeds up during these few weeks. It is not the best time for making important decisions, because of the shadow areas created during eclipses. The time frame is two weeks before and after an eclipse.

The Lunar Nodes shift into Leo/Aquarius on May 9 until Nov 7, 2018. The nodes signify our collective karma and evolutionary journey. Themes and issues will be in focus that have to do with the relationship of heart vs mind, self vs the collective, and the discovery of our interdependence with all life. Our collective learning for the following 18 months will be to 'think with our heart and feel with our mind!'

## Mercury retrogrades 2017

Dec 19, 2016 – Jan 7, 2017      April 9 – May 2;  
Aug 13 – Sept 4      Dec 3 – Dec 22

The most potent Mercury retrograde period will be in August, as it coincides with the eclipses and the last Jupiter/Pluto square. The Solar Total Eclipse on August 21 falls

on the 29th degree in Leo, the degree Mercury will station direct in early September. This is a potent degree as it coincides with the Fixed Star Regulus, the 'heart of the lion' or the 'king' who might be dethroned. On a personal level, unexpected events involving friends or groups of people might put pressure on our relationships. We might feel urged to make decisions without having the necessary information. It is essential not to act prematurely but remain centered in our heart energy (Leo).

## Jupiter and Saturn changing signs

Jupiter and Saturn forming a helpful sextile until September 2017 supporting wise and open-minded solutions to the challenges of the Jupiter/Pluto square (until August 2017) and the Jupiter/Uranus opposition (until October 2017). Then Jupiter will leave Libra, the sign of diplomacy, entering the more suspicious and less agreeable sign of Scorpio on October 11 (until November 9, 2018). Saturn moves into its own sign Capricorn on December 20 (until March 23, 2020). On the positive, Jupiter in Scorpio can transform destructive and intense energy into healing power, while Saturn in Capricorn is very ambitious, practical and down-to-earth.

Saturn in Capricorn is the archetype of the patriarch, loves control and desires to have mastery over others. The test lies in using power positively and with integrity. Saturn will be approaching a conjunction with Pluto until early 2020, another planet associated with power. This could be the time frame of our collective transformation, our 'purgative journey' and 'resurrection' that brings about the emergence of a new paradigm and manifestation of a new world order in 2020. Let's not forget, that 2017 is a very Uranian year, where lots is possible; this is the year where the awareness and processes take place that eventually will shift the collective mindset and deepen our understanding of a connected universe.

*Navigation by the Stars: Personal and/or Relationship Astrology; Life Cycles and Your Year Ahead: Plans, Directions, Concerns for 2017; contact Tina on 6689-7413 or 0457-903-957, email: star-loom@hotmail.com*

*The Astrology of 2017: 1-day workshops at Lillifield Community Center, January 28, 10am – 4pm & Mullumbimby, February 4, Yoga Peace Centre, 10am – 4pm. Contact Tina on 0457-903-957 or email: star-loom@hotmail.com*

## ASTRO FORECASTS

by Tina Mews

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS?

### Aries

The energies of the cardinal T-square (until August) drive you into action. You could easily do too much or start too many projects at once. Those born April 9 – 18 might consider a change in their career path or life direction. Mars is in your Sun sign during January 29 – March 10; this could be a good period for starting on a new course. The Saturn trine to your Sun is helpful with manifesting desired outcomes, especially when you show the necessary commitment and integrity. The Venus retrograde period March 3 – April 14 is well suited to re-evaluate plans, projects and re-negotiate partnerships. Be careful with arguments and conflicts during this period. On the other hand, this is a great year of favourable partnerships and opportunities that come to you through your dealings with others (until October 10).

### Taurus

Your belief system or personal philosophy has been going through a considerable transformation and there are still adjustments to be made during 2017. This is a year where you can grow through your work and favourable working relationships. Your health might also improve during this year and there are opportunities for gathering renewed strength and vitality through wholistic healing programs. Moneywise, it is a good time to organise your finances even though financial obligations to others might feel especially burdensome now. Your confidence has grown, as you become very self-sufficient knowing that you have the power and are in control of your own life. There may be new business proposals on the way, especially from October 10 onwards. This is also the time when favourable opportunities start happening in your personal relationships (until November 2018). New projects are best started during March 10 – April 21.

### Gemini

There is a never-ending flow of ideas to tap into, which is great for initiating creative projects, especially until October 10. However, you need to find out if you and your partner(s) are supporting the same course of action. You are willing to compromise, but you also need to follow your heart. This could mean that you must distance yourself from some cherished old beliefs, or even friends for that matter who are demanding too much of your time. Gemini born during June 11- 22 can expect some delays and challenges regarding their plans and projects; nevertheless, persistence will pay out and you will find that you are going through a very important maturation process. Those born early June might find it hard to make their mind up and can't decide on a definite course of action. Sharpen your powers of judgement and make sure that all your actions are based on fact, not fiction.

### Cancer

Expect the unexpected and get yourself ready for some important life changes. Your world around you is going through a transition and so are you. Your desire to be a free spirit is strong during this year and you certainly don't like to follow orders. On the other hand, you will have to actively seek agreements and work together with others, especially those close to you. The start of the year might offer some great opportunities and you might feel assertive and confident enough to go for it. Working hard to manifest your dreams can bring great results during 2017, especially if you have a clear vision of what you like to do. Set your intentions right at the beginning of the year and plan your next steps. Opportunities to buy, sell, improve or move to a new home might present themselves until mid-October, or there might be a new family member arriving.

### Leo

This could be a fantastic year for you where your creativity experiences a great boost. New exciting people have been entering your life and your reputation as a leading figure within your community and beyond has grown. Your hard work, persistence and commitment is paying off now, especially if you have hung in there and dealt with any inner and outer blockages and set-backs. Educational and communication opportunities could present themselves until mid-October. There might be a chance to travel, which could come up quite unexpectedly, providing you with unusual, eye-opening experiences. The people that you meet during this cycle tend to stir you into new ways of thinking. Those who are born during August 19 – 23 might complete a 19-year cycle and enter a totally new one around their birthday. The period from January 28 – March 10 is great for new initiatives, while March 11 – April 22 could be more stressful.

### Virgo

This is not a time where you can depend on outside support other than your own earnings or income. However, your opportunities for financial gains through your own efforts is great until mid October. Therefore, believe in your own power to get things the way you would like them to be. It is important that you develop some practical plans and stay grounded in the here and now. Your compassion for others is great; you like to be of service and share your vision of the future. This an important year for doing serious inner work, such as exploring your roots and the beliefs that you have inherited, including your earliest programming. Through unexpected circumstances things could be shaken up a little urging you to re-formulate your values and views on life. The start of the year might be a bit more difficult and you could be involved in some kind of dispute, whereas the best time for new activities is March 11 – April 22.

### Libra

This is a very fortunate year for Librans, at least until October 11, when Jupiter moves from Libra into Scorpio. Until then you should have lots of opportunities for growth and expansion of your creative activities. Exciting new alliances and partnerships might present themselves, if you are willing to follow them up and make them work for you. Your social skills will be of great help and give you the tools to guide things towards the direction you would like them to go. Your belief in your own capabilities is growing as well, which helps with convincing others about your plans of action. Nevertheless, there are some unexpected twists and turns that you will have to deal with especially during February 21 until April 20. This includes the Venus retrograde phase where you must review some of your most important contracts. The period from beginning of August until the end of September can also bring some interesting changes to your plans. So, stay flexible and open-minded.

### Scorpio

From May 9 through to Nov 7, 2018 your focus will be on finding a new balance between your career path and home life, or time spent fulfilling societal expectations and responsibilities versus time spent on addressing personal needs. You might be re-formulating your public image, the role you want to play in the world. Then, from October 11 (until November 2018) you will start a new 12-year cycle of personal growth and innovation. Until then you are in a phase of completing current obligations and duties and making space for the new you to emerge. You are in a very important process of transforming and re-writing those beliefs that hold you living in the past. So, spend some time evaluating your thoughts and feelings because this will be very beneficial for the new cycles that are going to begin later in the year. March 11- April 22 might be a time of conflict. Your contracts with others will be under review.

### Sagittarius

Saturn, planet of limitations, challenges and maturity, continues his journey through your Sun sign until December 20. This is an important time for reassessing your life, taking responsibility and building towards the future that you are envisioning. Saturn forms a positive trine with innovation planet Uranus until November 2017. If you are born during Dec 12 – 22, you will benefit particularly from this great alignment and are empowered to combine traditional values with new pioneering ideas. Jupiter, ruling planet of Sagittarius, is supportive of creative endeavours; if you are born during Dec 5 -22, you will find this influence helpful. If you are born during Dec 1- 5, you have a great vision but must clarify boundaries and make sure that your dreams are coordinated with reality. Shortcuts are not an option, when Saturn is around. The period from January 29 – March 11 could be a great time for new

activities. Be aware that the Black Moon Lilith will be in your Sun sign during February 15- Nov 10, making you more reactive and less inclined to tolerate restrictions from others.

### Capricorn

A totally new 29-year cycle starts for you next December (Dec 20), when Saturn, Capricorn's ruler, moves into your Sun sign. Therefore, this year can be quite difficult as you might feel like withdrawing from a lot of your usual activities. It is a good idea to review your contracts with others, as they might change during this year. You will not always feel in control of what is going on around you, especially during the January Full Moon period (Jan 10-12) and from January 28 – March 10. On the other hand, you have the power to guide your life into the direction you would like it to go. Nevertheless, it is a year where you need to find a new balance between the values of the past and new innovative ways of being and doing. You even might consider moving to improve your career options. However, make sure that you have the right plan.

### Aquarius

2017 is a year where your perception on things can change instantly. This can be encouraged through travelling or meeting people from different cultural backgrounds. Life will speed up especially during January 28 – March 10. You will feel inclined to take some risks and experiment with new possibilities. All in all, this can bring new financial and social opportunities, due to your fabulous networking abilities. The February 11 and August 7 Lunar Eclipses are in your Sun sign, indicating the possibility of changes and shifts in your domestic life, maybe even a change of homes. If this is the case, it might come quite unexpectedly. If you are not already in a relationship, you might find the 'partner of your dreams'. Those who are in a relationship already might deepen their bonds, grow a family, or start a business together (from May 9 until Nov 2018).

### Pisces

2017 should bring lots of opportunities for shared endeavours. You could be at the height of your career where established ways of making money and innovative ideas must be brought together. This is a good year to become serious about investing in your future on all levels. On the other hand, you also need to work through restricting circumstances and deal with life's challenges. If you are born during Feb 28 – March 5, you are in a super-sensitive phase, filled with rich imagination and a wonderful intuition. This is great for all creative and social activities. If you are born during March 10-20, you are much more equipped to have good clear judgement about your plans and goals, especially if you are prepared to be patient and persistent. You might even consider a change in your life direction or career path following your bliss.



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## The world according to **Magenta Appel-Pye**

**M**y seniors' ukulele class share wonderful stories of regeneration through playing music and singing. Ray Ellis was 88 years old when he first came. He had severe emphysema. Having previously collapsed with no air, he used his puffer twice a day, morning and evening, and carried one with him at all times.

When his daughter gave him a ukulele to help with the memory loss, Ray embraced it. He had previously played mandolin, but stopped because he couldn't remember the songs. But Ray loves music and he found me. He bought a recording device so he could practise at home. For each song, he pencilled in a 'b' for every spot he needed to breathe so he could get to the end of the line.

At 93, Ray's fine baritone voice is better than ever, easily projecting across the hall when we perform at the retirement village,

and even doing solo gigs. He's stopped using the puffer. Completely! He no longer has the annual spectrometer because he is getting better each year rather than worse. He's found new places in his lungs to store air and can sing the full line without taking a breath. He's also rubbed out the 'b's on his music.

Then there's Josie with severely arthritic hands. When she first came I thought it impossible that she could learn the ukulele with those hands. But Josie thought otherwise, she persevered, doing a little bit each day, especially the hand and finger exercises. Her hands loosened up and got much better.

She has learnt to play in her own way, making allowances as necessary and has been a valued member of our group for three years.

It certainly is a case of if you don't use it, you lose it, but if you use it, you improve.



This photo was taken at 7.45am on Friday 18th November 2016. As you come into Nimbin from the south, Rainbow Cottage is on the left in the main street. It also has a mini cottage on one of the veranda poles (inset).

## *Nosin' around with PAC*

**She says / HE says**  
with Aunty Maj and Uncle Norm

*Dear SSHS, My boyfriend always pulls out of kissing first. What's with that? - Missy Kissy*

### **She says**

There's nothing quite as romantic as a good, long sensuous snog, and it's the passion in a kiss that gives its sweetness, so your problem is a tricky one.

Firstly, check the obvious. Have you got good dental hygiene? Are you wearing a strong perfume that burns the hairs off his nose? Are you clinging on like spittle velcro, refusing to let go? Then he needs to (and should) break free before, like a female praying mantis, you consume him completely.

Does he have commitment issues? Maybe he's got ADHD and can't sit still for any length of time unless, of course, it's to watch the cricket or football. Is he surreptitiously checking his mobile phone?

If he's rushing towards sex, train him to slow down or you could stop before his pleasure is satisfied and see how he likes it.

Are there kissing classes? Kissing booths are, thankfully, a thing of the past. What better way to spread germs around the community? But perhaps, Missy, armed with dental dams, this might be the job for you. Teach them, whilst kissing, to say the word 'peaches' or the even fruitier 'prunes', or Uncle Norm's favourite 'pork sausages'.

When we part for the day we always have a 'ten second kiss'. Some days this can seem like an eternity but even if we have to count fast, it is amazing what a difference it makes to our

relationship. It makes us feel loved and it's also a comforting (?) thought that if he dies out there, our parting was beautiful. Start with this suggestion, but let him go after 10 seconds and build it up from there.

*"What of soul was left, I wonder, when the kissing had to stop?"*  
- Robert Browning

### **He says**

Women-folk seem to love kissing sessions. We blokes don't mind it, but to us it's just the entree to the mains. So if you're only letting him have the gazpacho without the steak, seafood, cheese platter and pav, then you're on a hiding to nothing.

Maybe it's your technique. Do you squeeze and kiss him like a giant squid trying to extract a mollusc from its shell? If so, loosen your grip, he's not going to run away - yet. If he feels like he's kissing a boa constrictor his natural instinct is to try and wriggle himself free. So just relax.

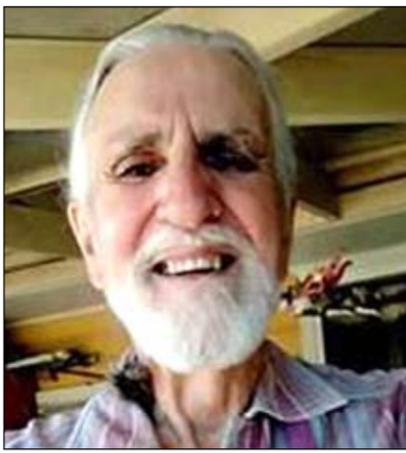
Don't treat kissing like it's a game of chicken, where the first to pull out loses face, literally. Someone's got to come up for air eventually. Maybe he can't hold his breath as long as you, maybe his lips are chafing. Just how long do you expect him to hang in there before he starts turning blue?

Also consider your timing. Don't start pashing when he's leaving for work. He's itching to get out the door for a hard day's yakka, and a few hours respite from you. Ditto when the cricket's on, or when his mates are around.

Don't worry Missy, if fate decrees that you two end up growing old together, this urge to pash will, like your chins and waist lines, head south. You'll both have a bit of a laugh about it over your evening cocoa before heading off to bed at 8.30 for a bit of a read and noddy land. Nighty-nite Missy.

*"A man snatches the first kiss, pleads for the second, demands the third, takes the fourth, accepts the fifth... and endures all the rest."*  
- Helen Rowland

Send your relationship problems to Norm and Magenta: [normanappel@westnet.com.au](mailto:normanappel@westnet.com.au)



by Brendan (Mookx) Hanley

Happy talk, keep talking happy talk,  
Talk about things you'd like to do,  
You gotta have a dream, if you don't have a dream,  
How you gonna have a dream come true?  
- Rogers & Hammerstein, *South Pacific*

I must have taken notice of this song from when I first heard it way back when... because I have believed for decades in one single dream which I actually thought would manifest well and truly by now... or at least before I die.

However, I have lately come face to face with the grim reaper once again in a recent stint in hospital that has left me with two nephrostomy bags (kidneys) as well as a suprapubic catheter sticking out of my midriff... all coupled with a diagnosis of metastasising prostate cancer. This condition recently closed off both my ureters at the same time, forcing me urgently into Lismore Base Hospital with blocked kidneys for a couple of nightmare weeks of torture and fuck-ups.

I'm holding myself in a day-to-day paradigm since then (a supposedly enlightened state anyway) and am dealing with issues I certainly have NEVER held as part of my long-term dream.

My dream is no re-invention of the wheel. It follows a well-worn, rutted road. It fits right into "normal circumstances". Two of the most noteworthy might well

# The end of the dream?

be The Byrds doing *Mr Tambourine Man* and Peter, Paul and Mary doing *Blowin' in the Wind*, thus launching Bob Dylan and his songs into the global arena... and Lulu doing *The Boat That I Row* while the Monkees sang *Daydream Believer*, setting Neil Diamond up as an instant, successful songwriter.

It's a classic cliché. It happens to some songwriters. People sing their songs. I have written well over 500 songs, many of which I have sung and played internationally with great success... so I know the songs work. There's no reason why someone with a high profile can't like and record one or more of my songs... and I don't mean 50 years after my demise! Screw that! It's all in the six degrees of separation, I know! First find the singer.

There's no reason why I should never play the Bluesfest or Nimbin's Blue Moon Cabaret either... you'd have to ask the people who run them why that's the case. Overseas, when I have mentioned Byron Bay, people would say "Wow... you must be famous there! Bet you're real big on the Bluesfest!" Little do they know that I've never been invited. Just a local hippy, not worth promoting. In fact they got rid of us "Nimbin" musos at Woodford too... probably because we sang the odd song about cannabis. Not exactly Guinness Consciousness.

So, having to wear such forced anonymity on the local music scene tends to make one want to rise higher to a global status just for spite... to want to leave the petty politics of the parish promoters, their ageist attitudes, bigoted biases and pre-determined prejudices far behind.

Not that I'm a fame freak. I've been with famous people in public situations and believe me... it's no fun! Being recognised and approached like an old friend by every Tom, Dickhead and Harriet is not my idea of success. Being set-upon in the supermarket, discovered in the diner or found in the fish shop by four or fifty frantic fans whilst trying to finance a

filleted flounder or squabble over some squid is a bleedin' nightmare.

No. I was always fascinated with the life of Robert Hunter who wrote the lyrics for most of the Grateful Dead songs and was part of the band. When they toured or did concerts, he could go out without being mobbed. Nobody knew who he was. He would go get the beer or the tobacco... snacks... whatever anyone needed, without fear of being flailed to death by adoring fans.

The guys in Kiss were the same. Without their very distinctive make-up and providing they didn't all hang together, wearing eye-catching or flamboyant clothing, they too could sneak out into public realms and still remain anonymous.

I have been recognised enough already with my minimal public exposure on stage... and lately lots more, due to the popularity of the *GoodTimes* and this crazy column I get to vent in once a month. Who'd have thought?

So I've been hanging my songs on the line hoping they'll get noticed by someone out there for a few years now. I use the Reverbnation site, which is free and where I have 80 or 90 of the better-recorded samples from my repertoire... all available to listen to or download free, as you wish.

I would love to see one of my angel-channelled, healing anthems like *Flying High*, *Keep Sailing On*, *Peacemakin' Man* or *Peace, Peace, Peace* be taken to the top of the world charts by some caring, switched-on, high-profile artist out there. And while I find myself obliged to drop the dream... I think as I fade away... I'll quietly still embrace the idea!

Go to this site... download and listen to songs. "Like" and "fan" me etc. and maybe someone will take notice! The more people who do this, the more attention I attract from the right quarters.

See: <https://www.reverbnation.com/mookxhanley>

# Welcome 2017

by Marilyn Scott

Time to get serious – playful but serious. During these last few weeks as 2016 came to a close we let go of a cycle of growth, and prepared for a new one.

As we stepped over the threshold of 2017 – a new chapter, a new beginning greeted us, with wondrous possibilities. Awaiting us with open arms and the most enticing smile: "Welcome," she said. "Jump on board, there's room for all, the magick carpet ride is about to begin."

Believe – believe in your dreams, they're knocking loudly and wanting to be heard. Stuffed away in that old mouldy box at the bottom of your cupboard in the furthest corner, covered by years of neglect – they begin to stir. Be prepared, nothing will keep them contained as 2017 spreads her generous arms, calling you to embrace.

"You've been waiting for this," she whispers in your ear. "Let go, stretch those wings, they were meant for flight." That ancient song from faraway lands rolls across the waves; your heart beats faster. You feel your blood, revived and racing through the channels of your precious body. It's been a very long sleep.

Your shoulders rise, your spine extends, your face absorbs the golden light as the new dawn births. We bring our hands before our heart, bow our heads in gratitude. This is a year with multiple gifts. All that is needed is you on board.

We've now entered a new dimension... a new portal opens before us. "Step in," she whispers, that kind and loving voice vibrating in your ear. "Step in, let go, you are safe." This ride we are embarking on will transform your life. No, no – it's not a dream. Magick exists, can't you see it, everywhere?

It sparkles, it shines, it caresses and speaks; it holds, it unites, it drives you crazy with passion and purpose. It awakens you – you remember once again, so long this sleep, tired and exhausted you became. A new dawn has birthed, grab with both hands, nod your head – a tiny 'yes' or just a big smile. Whatever, which way, you accept this gift. Do it now, you'll never be the same again.



Magick is real and it's come to your door... 2017 will change you and the world. Yes, we've entered a brand new space, endless opportunities presented to you; wishes granted, gifts showered. And all you need to do, is step forward and say, "Yes".

I'm on board, I trust and believe – I'm free to choose my life and my dreams. "Magick Happens." Yes it was a sticker, but it's true, magick really happens.

We enter 2017 blessed by the aura of the New Moon in Capricorn, we "know", we comprehend and, with our feet planted firmly on Mother Earth, we begin manifesting our dreams; we know how to make them real. We'll put down deep roots within our self; we'll be grounded, self-sufficient and wiser for sure.

Magick Merlin and Messenger Hermes add their wonder to an already amazing beginning. And the 'Galactic Core', that black hole swirling at the centre of our galaxy, is highly activated during this time of transition. Downloads a-plenty, information streaming, psychic insights flowing freely; we need to make space, clean up our stuff, allow plenty of room for the new to fill.

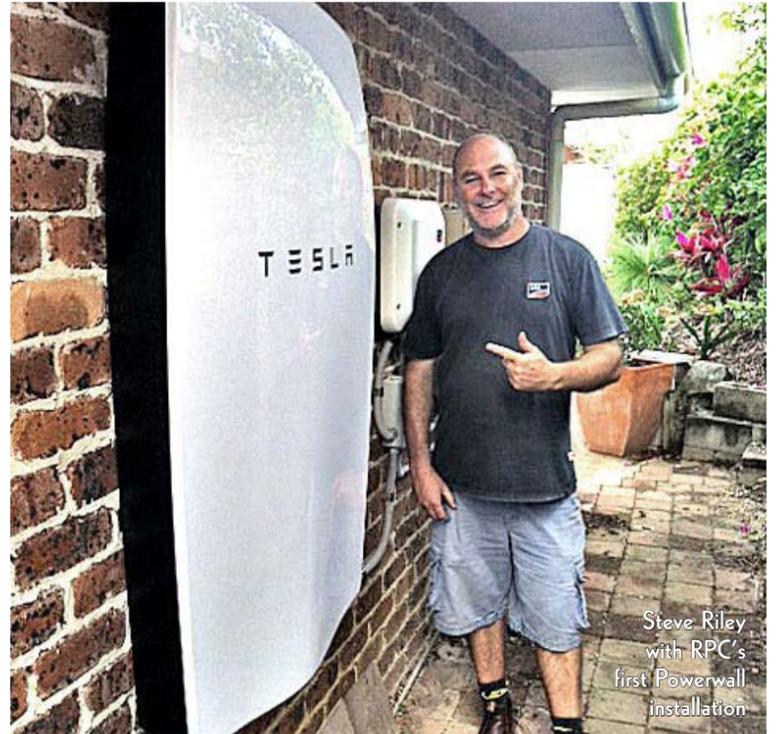
And of course Jupiter and Uranus imprint their signature on 2017, the King of the Gods and the God of the Heavens bestow their blessings: Expansion, exploration, new frontiers, higher learning with a touch of the bizarre. Surprises, uniqueness sparkle with brilliance and that oh so familiar cry for freedom. Yes, we're in for a ride... but boy is it going to be great. Be prepared, open, accept and whatever you do, say, "Yes, I'm on board!"

## Nimbin Crossword Solution

From Page 27

	B	U	T	T	E	R	S	C	O	T	C	H
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# The local energy revolution: solar + batteries + us



by Ken Jones,  
Rainbow Power Company

The North Coast Energy Forum is a community-based organisation that has been meeting annually since 2010 to shift the NSW North Coast towards a sustainable energy system. Participants include government, industry and community representatives. The NCEF has been instrumental in the success of projects such as the float of Enova Energy, the Northern Rivers' own local electricity retailer (and the first in Australia).

In late November, over 100 participants attended the 2016 Forum with the theme of Local Energy Systems. This theme has been energised by the current revolution in battery storage technology. We have seen the price of domestic on-grid battery storage halve in just one year, making solar plus batteries competitive with, if not cheaper than traditional coal-

fired generation. Industrial scale battery storage technology has moved in the same direction.

Currently, \$350M leaves the North Coast every year in electricity payments. Where does the money go? In 2015, NSW electricity payments were split between the generators (25%), the transmitters (10%), the distributors (29%), the retailers (30%), and green power generators (6%).

Local Energy Systems deliver lower bills, higher security, faster transition to carbon pollution reduction, stronger local communities and increased equity.

The Forum was presented with a number of LES case studies, including the Tyalgum Energy Project (NSW), Renewable Newstead (Vic) and The Great Stupa (Bendigo, Vic), a sustainable Buddhist community designed to last at least 1000 years.

In the same way that Uber and Airbnb have disrupted traditional

industry models, so renewable energy systems are disrupting old models of centralised power generation and distribution. But the power distributors who have previously viewed renewable energy as a threat, or merely a nuisance, are coming to recognise the opportunities. The distributors are charged with funding, construction and management of multibillion dollar assets (the poles and wires). They are coming to recognise the economic benefits possible with solar plus battery storage in vexed situations such as "end of grid" locations and "island" communities.

Essential Energy were represented at the Forum by their newly-appointed Transition Manager, appointed late last year to deal with this disruption and obtain the benefits of renewable technologies wherever possible. The Forum welcomed this development with open arms. Alison Crook, Chair of Enova, commented that "Enova

is a co-operative energy retailer that wants to work with a co-operative energy distributor." This recent development represents a significant positive shift in our local distributor's position.

With so many industry participants recognising the environmental and economic benefits of local renewable energy systems, what are the obstacles to progress?

The Forum was presented with details of the national and state regulatory policies that stand in the way of progress and the need for Public Advocacy for Local Energy required to bring about change was highlighted. Both individual and collective lobbying is required. Solar Citizens is one strong voice representing the 1.6 million Australian households that already have solar power (the highest uptake in the world).

Government and regulatory policies lag significantly behind

recent technological developments and the current industry thinking, not to mention public opinion. Until now, change has been driven from the grassroots up. 30 years ago, Rainbow Power Company was formed to implement energy system changes that government would not. This is still the case today and Enova Energy has stepped up in the same way to implement the changes that are needed.

But more is needed, even as impetus grows in the implementation of Local Energy Systems. The Forum's theme says it all. We are the "Us" in "Solar + Batteries + Us", so let's get cracking on letting the politicians and regulators know what we think!

More detailed information is available from:  
[www.ncef.net.au](http://www.ncef.net.au)  
[www.rpc.com.au](http://www.rpc.com.au)  
[www.enovaenergy.com.au](http://www.enovaenergy.com.au)  
[www.solarcitizens.org.au](http://www.solarcitizens.org.au)



## Clarrie Hall Dam weekend camp

by Peter Moyle, Walks co-ordinator

The last get-together for the year was another weekend away at a private property on Clarrie Hall Dam with 15 members. The camp/walks have been very popular and as the members have called for more, we will be having one a month this year, as well as one daily walk per month.

Please remember that even though some of us are camping and walking, members and visitors who cannot stay overnight are always welcome to come for the day walks that are scheduled. Phone the walk leader and they will give you details and start times. Every month we will be letting you know of all the club doings through the NGT and also on our web page. We do not walk in January, but are back into it in February.

A great year was had, with many new members and even a few old ones re-appearing, and next year we have planned a variety of walks for us to enjoy our local environment wonders.

Below is a short write up of the weekend by Sue Macklin:

What a fun wind-up for the Nimbin Bushwalkers it was! Our camp was near Clarrie Hall Dam and, whilst not a lot of walking was had for this gathering, there was lots of water to enjoy. Actually, water from the heavens as well as the dam. A super-cell made sure of spectacular skies and heavy rain on Saturday night – not the kind to dampen the spirits though – and the dam was most inviting for canoeing a-plenty.

On Sunday morning, while a couple went adventuring on foot, a bunch of us paddled to the dam wall, where we did a little exploring on foot. The water-scenery was wonderful – yellow and purple water-lilies lined the edges of the dam and the water birds thrilled us. We were even fortunate enough to quietly drift in close and personal to a large flock of cormorants – while pelicans soared above.

Early morning fog hung over the dam, and the reflections across the glassy surface were quite spectacular. All this,

together with a great bunch of other nature-lovers, made it such a good way to spend a December weekend.

Thanks to Carol and family for hosting us, Peter for 'Moyle's catering services', and all the other generous sharing within the group.

I'll be back for more in 2017.

### Nimbin Bushwalkers February Walks Program

Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th February

Black Rocks Camping, Bundjalung National Park

A weekend at the coastal camp just south of Evans Head. All watersports in Jerusalem Creek and the beach as well as walks and even mountain biking for those inclined. Day walkers welcome. Contact Leonie for more details and bookings 0417-239-129.

Sunday 19th February

Billinudgel Nature Reserve, South Golden Beach

Walking through paperbark forest with mountain and hinterland views with a finish along the beach.

Leader: Peter Moyle (0412-656-498)

Grade: 1 – an easy walk for an hour or so along beach and management trail prior to our AGM

Meet: For the walk, meet at 9.30am at Brunswick Heads Surf Club. For the AGM only, meet at the Community Shed in the Park opposite the Brunswick Hotel at 11am (all welcome, only members may vote).

Bring: Water, hat, sunscreen, chair, picnic lunch



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 GRANT ROSSITER - 0427 531 951  
 JACQUI SMITH - 0439 156 666      NIKKI J LONG - 0467 481 246



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**66 891 498**

### NEW LISTINGS



**4/818 Blue Knob Rd, Nimbin      \$210,000**  
 - Lush 6 acre dog friendly share of a small community  
 - 8 min to Nimbin. 2 storey barn-style shed/home. Solar  
 - Elevated w/ views of Lillian Rock & Border Ranges. Creek



**Lot 10, Oxbow Road, Cawongla      \$175,000**  
 - Gently sloping Nor/East block approx 5 acres  
 - Spring fed dam; tar road to Cawongla Village  
 - Sweet rural setting w/terrific mountain views



**315 Sargents Road, Homeleigh      \$635,000**  
 - 93 acres private, pristine land w/copious water  
 - Jewel in the crown is lovingly restored farmhouse  
 - 3 x bed, sunroom/office, stunning kitchen, views



**32 Nimbin Street, The Channon      \$349,000**  
 - 3 bed/split-level home on 882m2 gardened village block  
 - Kitchen window & wide verandah view of Terania Creek  
 - Huge under-house garage ideal for conversion to s/c unit



**Lot 10/123 Zouch Road, Stony Chute      \$180,000**  
 - Yes it's a 'Do-Upper-er' and it's as cheap as chips too!  
 - Part of a well established, small & happy community  
 - Off the grid. Rich volcanic soil. Sustainable & private



**3935 Kyogle Road, Blue Knob      \$625,000**  
 - 10 acres of 'WOW'; intriguing 'Bauhaus' inspired abode  
 - 3 x bed, designer bathroom plus ensuite, quality fittings  
 - Sunken lounge/dining; Glorious views; botanical gardens

For more information, see **“Head for the hills”** or visit our friendly staff at  
[www.nimbinhills.com.au](http://www.nimbinhills.com.au)      **02 6689 1498**      **74a Cullen St, Nimbin**

**Lifestyle Real Estate would like to wish everyone a great year for 2017**



**39/78 CECIL STREET, NIMBIN \$365,000**

- The Jarlanbah Community is located only minutes' drive or a comfortable walk into Nimbin.
- The master bedroom is heavenly and light, a feeling that spreads throughout the house.
- The highly functional kitchen is combined with a lounge and dining area that could be lovingly personalised into an entertainer's dream.
- Large deck which overlooks the (approximately) 2000sqm of rainforest.
- Private studio / separate accommodation.



**9B NOBLE ROAD, BLUE KNOB \$899,000**

- Your main residence is a 2-storey home with 3 bedrooms.
- Impressive open and airy kitchen, massive underground wine cellar.
- The paved outdoor entertaining area features a terracotta pizza oven and 90,000L inground swimming pool.
- A secluded 2nd dwelling with one large upstairs bedroom and open plan kitchen/living area flows onto two large decks via bi-fold doors.



**48 HUTCHINSON RD, STONY CHUTE \$1,395,000**

- Lovingly built by its current owners in 2009, this house still presents as near new.
- A back to grid 10kw solar system and 3 water tanks totalling 66000 litres of storage.
- Inside are 4 super-sized carpeted bedrooms with built-in wardrobes, and a study.
- Living areas are all close to the social hub of the kitchen and include a separate TV/ gym/formal dining room.
- The land size is approximately 143 fenced acres, and currently runs 70 head of cattle.



**4358 KYOGLE ROAD, WADEVILLE \$985,000**

- Set on 125 acres of lush rolling hills is a very well kept 3 bedroom colonial homestead.
- The property boasts plenty of infrastructure with a fully self-contained granny flat/office.
- Stunning, fully equipped one bedroom farmstay, beautifully renovated.
- Large lock-up shed with three-phase power.
- 4 decent sized storage dams, a quarry, a creek, a massive spring-fed dam featuring a Chinese garden, and a pizza oven!



**144 GUNGAS ROAD, NIMBIN \$270,000**

- Approximately 1 acre situated less than 5 minutes from Nimbin.
- This block has a building entitlement to build your dream home, with a small dwelling at the very rear of the block which could rent for \$150 p/w.
- Council approved reed bed sewerage system ready for an accompanying house.
- Lovely established herb garden and variety of fruit trees – persimmon, mango, kiwi fruit.
- Large water tank, as well as pump and sprinkler system set up for garden.



**887 STONY CHUTE RD, STONY CHUTE \$475,000**

- Well-built 3 bedroom timber home set in a private location up a long driveway (2WD access).
- The property is approx. 15 acres in size and is situated about 12 minutes from the village of Nimbin and 5 minutes from the famous Hanging Rock Falls.
- French doors opening onto sweeping verandah.
- Upstairs is a large loft space that could be used as another bedroom or living space.
- The property also has a medium-sized dam with an overflow dam below.

**CONTACT PETER ROBINSON 0428 890 373 URI ROSS 0423 280 278**