

# ASTRO FORECASTS WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS?

## by Tina Mews

### Aries

This Mercury retrograde phase invites you to review, resolve and heal unsettled relationship themes. Create a balance between your need for freedom and your ability to commit and co-operate. Frustrated energy is best transformed by accepting real limitations, either in yourself or in your dealings with others.

### Taurus

Beware of possible miscommunication especially regarding financial issues. This is not a good time to sign a contract. Study the fine print if you cannot avoid it. Surprise encounters with others are also possible and unresolved disagreements might have to be addressed. There is lots going on behind the scenes!

### Gemini

Miscommunication at the workplace might be a possibility during this period, therefore check if everybody involved has the correct information. This is also a good moment in time to reflect on your habits and routines. More flexibility might be required. Make space for a fresh creative input.

### Cancer

A phase of blocked creativity might bring up some unresolved pain from childhood initiating a time of deep review and reflection. Create your own healing space and allow yourself to delve into the past. Clear old hurts and unresolved relationship issues. Use the New Moon period for renewal and regeneration.

### Leo

Communication plays a key role right now, including the conversation you have with yourself. This is a helpful period for reflecting on the past and clearing away old thought patterns that you might become aware of. Question those beliefs that prevent you from tapping into your fullest potential.

### Virgo

Mercury retrograde (October 14- Nov 3) is a time of review and revision. Some quiet time for reflection is needed, because worries strain the nervous and digestive system. Joint projects are also under review. Contemplate corrections to plans and incentives so that they align with your values and needs.

### Libra

This is the beginning of a new yearly cycle. Consider that Mercury will be retrograde from October 14 until

## October

Since the last equinox (September 22) the Sun has travelled through Libra, the sign concerned with establishing balance and harmony. Libra has a strong sense for justice and fairness demonstrating a natural talent for mediating between opposing views until reconciliation is achieved. Aries is the sign opposite to Libra and the Aries-Libra axis describes the tension that exists in all relationships: the struggle to find a balance between individual freedom and autonomy on the one hand, and the support, approval and appreciation we all need from others on the other hand.

**The Full Moon on October 2 in Aries, the sign opposite to Libra, is closely conjunct Chiron.**

In mythological and astronomical terms, Chiron is a Centaur, a small solar system body that orbits between Saturn and Uranus bridging the world of visible manifestations with the invisible, the inner space with the outer, spirit with matter.

Chiron, a mythic creature – half man and half horse – is known as the wounded healer archetype. Symbolically, he signifies the place within our soul where opposites can be reconciled through the awakening of compassion and spiritual maturing that often is bestowed through physical, emotional or spiritual suffering. In this sense our weak points can become our teacher and greatest gifts.

Mahatma Gandhi had his Libra Sun opposite Chiron in Aries in his natal chart. He employed nonviolent civil disobedience, eventually leading India to independence. The Chironic wound, when activated sparks great motivation and courage (Aries) for healing the self through healing the world. Gandhi started his movement when he had his Chiron return at the age of 50. It appears that great change processes that address long standing injustices and sufferings take place when Chiron journeys through Aries (until 2026).

**Mercury enters its 3rd and last retrograde phase on October 14 (until November 3) which correlates with Mars retrograde reaching the peak point of its cycle.** At the midpoint phase Mars is the brightest in the night sky while being closest to Earth. It is the transcendence phase of this cycle, where we are meant to

have a deeper look at how to work with our passion, drives and ambitions. Am I on the right track or do I need to correct my plans and incentives? **During October 8 – 25, Mars retrograde squares Pluto and Jupiter** in Capricorn possibly triggering more tension in the collective, because movements that advocate new ideas of how to resolve old problems might challenge the established order and their agenda.

On a personal level, we might have encounters with our own shadow self and deeply held beliefs. This process of emotional clearing ultimately leads to another level of soul growth if we can face our own demons. The Mercury retrograde period through Scorpio is not only a time of review and revision but also helpful for healing and releasing emotional baggage. On a collective level, there is a good chance that rules and regulations will be revised, especially when Mercury is nearing its opposition to Uranus, the cosmic liberator (exact October 20).

**The New Moon in Libra on October 17** is opposite impatient Mars retrograde and squaring the Jupiter/Pluto/Saturn stellium in Capricorn. The positive potential of Jupiter-Saturn-Pluto for individuals who link in with the energy is tapping into an inner resource of great courage and strength. Those who have important points or planets around the 20-25th degree of the cardinal signs (Aries, Libra, Cancer and Capricorn) might have been following a powerful vision combined with a persistent determination to transform the world around them.

Care has to be taken not pushing too hard or overexerting oneself as fierce disagreements and a clash between different belief systems might be the outcome. The intense energies need to be channelled into a worthwhile cause. While Mercury is retrograde, it is helpful to observe one's emotional reactions and inner motivation before striking out or pressing forward.

*Navigation by the Stars: Personal and/or Relationship Astrology; Life Cycles and Your Year Ahead: Plans, Directions, Concerns for 2020/21*

*Astro-mornings at the Lillifield Community Centre: Thursday, October 15 & 29, 10.30am – 1pm, Working with Progressions and Life Cycles. All welcome. For all bookings and info, contact 0457-903-957 or email: star-loom@hotmail.com*

November 3 when you set your intentions for your personal new year. This means that you cannot push ahead but rather allow things to develop. Remain flexible as there might be some corrections to plans and incentives.

### Scorpio

This is not an easy Mercury retrograde period (Oct 14 – Nov 3). Miscommunication especially concerning money issues is a possibility. Self-awareness is the key in your dealings with others to avoid conflict. Your attention may also focus on your work schedule, daily routine and health. Take some time out if you can.

### Sagittarius

This Mercury retrograde period (Oct 14 – Nov 3) may bring messages from your deep self. You might want to keep a record of your dreams as they could provide valid information. Regrets about the past could surface and interrupt your peace of mind. Find out what is triggering you and how to resolve it. Then the path is cleared for spiritual renewal.

### Capricorn

Your energy has been focused on your home life and domestic affairs or you have been involved in an all-consuming home renovation project. Whatever the issue might be, it has been important for your personal transformation and soul growth. However, it is time now to free up some of your time and energy and catch up with a few old friends!

### Aquarius

Make use of this Mercury retrograde period (Oct 14 – Nov 3) by finishing unfinished jobs and taking care of old business. Tie up loose ends. This is not a good time for a career change, however it is helpful to reflect on whether you are on the right path with what you are doing. You might want to research new avenues and dream up a new vision

### Pisces

Use this Mercury retrograde period (Oct 14 – Nov 3) for re-examining your philosophy of living and what you believe about the world. Your beliefs create your reality! How shall your future look like? With borders opening again, you might consider travelling. Be prepared for delays, cancelled flights and obstacles on the way.



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# The wild adventure

by Marilyn Devlin

As the years click by, two things come sharply into focus... the extraordinary opportunity that I'm still alive and here in this paradise of Earth. And two... the sand's moving pretty swiftly through the narrow funnel of time.

Some folk let birthdays move on past... without fanfare or acknowledgement. I'm not one of them... could be my Venus in Leo (smile). I reckon it's a super BIG deal that I got a chance to come down to Earth. It's the best deal there is. At least in our galactic neighbourhood.

We never really know how it's going to unfold. It's a surprise package. We arrive all little and vulnerable... dependent on the love and care of others. That's inbuilt from the start. Bit by bit we wander, here and there. We do the full rotation – up/down, in-front/behind, upside down. We make it through.

The tools we're loaded with before we undertake the journey into this altered reality... are all sure needed. God only knows (literally) what we'll need to encounter. We use what we have and keep on moving.

There's a Light up ahead... it's brilliant in its radiance. An arc of rainbow glitter pulls you forward. It's as if you're connected... it's such a strong magnet. Hail or shine... nothing is going to keep you from it.

The Quest starts early... really early. Your consciousness alert and awake right from the start. You know what's going on but you're too small to help. You see it all... you hear the cries.

An adventure for sure is this living on Earth thing.

The Light stays central before you... emits the sweetest, sweetest sound. It holds you steady in its gaze. You never forget... that place buried deep inside. It remembers, it knows, it recognises... it understands.

This glorious sight keeps pulling you forward. The Quest continues... until all the sand slips through the channel. Then another adventure begins.

End of year is always a concentrated time. Even though it's a created calendar... it's pretty close to the natural cyclic rhythm of our Sun, the Light of our world. The Solstices and Equinoxes.

As I write we're just past the three quarter point... Spring Equinox here in the south. We reached our internal point of balance... where both sides illuminate clearly. Conscious or not a seed has been planted.

We'll meander our way through October, November and December... building up to the great crossing of Saturn and Jupiter aligned in Aquarius.

Takes me back to the Aquarius Festival in 1973. Wow, that's a few years back... I was 24. What an Adventure has opened since then.

The Sacred Seventies were special... some of us were real lucky to be there during that time. So much seeding was happening. It's all been growing under the surface. It's not disappeared. It will all manifest at the perfect time. And what a contrast it will be. But some of us remember what is what like.

No... no two times/events are ever the same. All unique. But those beautiful seeds were planted back there in the Sacred Seventies... and they've been continuing to flower and bloom under the surface of this Mad Max time. Crazy times for sure.

So we'll meander our way through the last dregs of 2020... astrologers prepared us for the choppy waters. All is one in our universe.

Conflict and chaos are part of it. We're now opening to the equanimity that's also a part of it all. At the centre of the storm is the absolute stillness and quiet.

Then there's the Light always there in front of us... the Rainbow Aura that beckons us. Such a gentle but powerful force... we can trust.

I enjoyed my birthday in Nimbin town... thanks to all the lovely folk I met. Sending you lotsa love.

# Nimbin Trivia Time

by Eclectus

## Questions

1. These things in Western Australia are rather remarkable. Can you say what they are and why they are remarkable? Hint: They are alive but their history goes back a very, very long way.
2. Who was named last month as the world's most eloquent leader? Hint: It's not Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, Ji Jinping or Scott Morrison. Not much of a hint at all, really.
3. Pinocchio, the little wooden boy crafted by Geppetto in Tuscany in the late 19th century, had the fervent desire to become a real boy. After an epic journey into dissolution and subsequent rebirth (allegorising the experience of many peasants swept up by the industrial revolution), Pinocchio eschewed his earlier wicked ways, adopting a sound and responsible set of values to guide him through life henceforth. Who granted his wish to become a real boy?
4. What is the most essential ingredient in salmon ice cream?
5. Is an amontillado an animal, a degustation course, a drink, a literary work or a musical descriptor?
6. September saw an Australian teenager win a world championship in their first season. What is their name and field of endeavour?
7. On the subject of champions but a little closer to home, who won the Far North Coast Men's League 1 Grand Final last month?
8. The balafon, glockenspiel, lithophone, marimba, metallophone, pixiephone, semantron and sticcado are all forms of what?
9. In 1996 the work of scientists John O'Sullivan, Terence Percival and Graham Daniels led to CSIRO patenting what technology that is now used daily by billions of people?
10. What is evanescence?



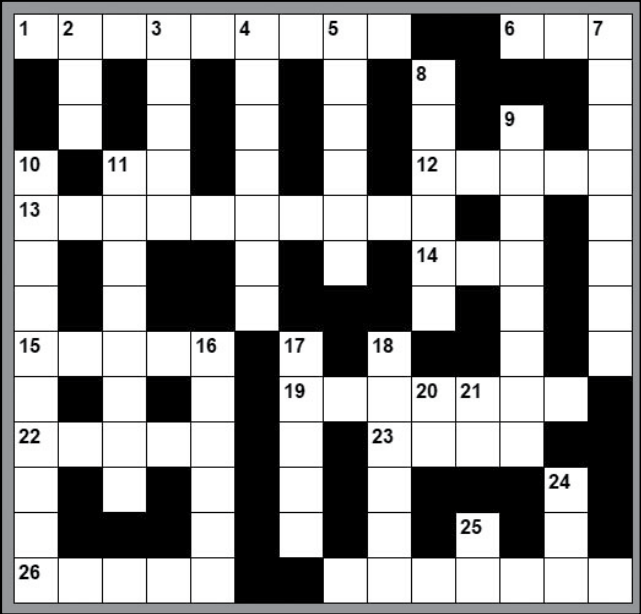
Photo: Paul Harrison, Wikimedia Commons

## Answers

1. They are sponges, colonial blue-green algae that aggregate and cement sand as it flows across them to form a structure. They grow larger over time, as do corals, but corals secrete their own structures. The fossil record shows that blue-green algae have been doing this for well over a billion years. They peaked about a billion years ago, until other lifeforms learned to graze on them. Nowadays they are only found in hypersaline environments such as the one pictured at Shark Bay in WA.
2. Jacinda Ardern, in whose enlightened and caring leadership New Zealand basks, was named the world's most eloquent leader by the UK based Development Academy wing of Acuity Training.
3. The Fairy with Turquoise Hair granted Pinocchio life during a dream when he came to his senses (in the Disney version of the story it was the Blue Fairy).
4. A sick and twisted mind.
5. Amontillado sherry is a medium dark sherry between the lighter fino and darker oloroso. The style originated in Montilla, Spain, in the 18th century and was classically served with a light beef consommé. It featured heavily in Edgar Allen Poe's short story 'The Cask of Amontillado' however, it doesn't eat any ants, nor do musicians take any notice of it. A waiter will just look at you dumbly if you ask to move on to the amontillado course at your expensive degustation.
6. 19 year old Melbourneian Oscar Piastri won the 2020 Formula 3 World Championship at the final race of his debut season in Mugello, Italy.
7. Nimbin Headers defeated Lennox Head with a thrilling extra time header to win 2 : 1.
8. They're all types of xylophone.
9. Their work led to the fast, powerful and stable wireless communication of wi-fi.
10. Gradual fading away....

# Nimbin Crossword

2020-10  
by 5ynic



## Across

1. Neuromancer's dark digital future
2. Online
11. Publicity
12. Argument broker, abode is 2 across
13. Very fast watercraft
14. 20th century English ambient musician and composer
15. Sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable
19. Currency, coined from 16 down
22. Twisty
23. Cry (of despair?)
26. Culturally inappropriate
27. Computer criminals?

## Down

2. Desire?
3. Escape
4. Rickshaw
5. Brain related
7. Warning light? Tittle-tattle
8. "In" in cricket
9. Train running on a single beam
10. Chemist
11. Marvel superheroes
16. Mathematical security
17. This device kindles your interest in fiction
18. Goddess of war
20. Corporation (init.)
21. Expression of pain
24. (Make a) mistake
25. Asian city rocked by pro-democracy protests

Solution: Page 28



## MISS SOMETHING?

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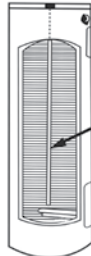
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**Nimbin Crossword Solution**  
From Page 27

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# Do I look like a bloody idiot?

by Simon Thomas

I never thought that I would have nostalgia towards the days when white-shoed developers passed paper bags full of cash to politicians in safari suits, but the behaviour of Scott Morrison and his cronies is causing just that.

I spend a lot of my time in parts of the world where you have to hand over a fiver just to get a public servant to do their job, but at least they don't treat you like a moron. When the cash goes under the counter, we can claim not to know that the corruption is taking place, but what about when it is announced on television as an actual policy?

I get the idea. Let's face it; there is a limit to how much dough you can fit inside an Aldi bag, but when the money gets siphoned off directly from the public purse into a Cayman Island bank account set up by the energy minister, 80 million bucks is no hassle.

It's not just that they are stealing my money that annoys me, it is the fact that they are doing it in broad daylight and telling me that there is nothing untoward going on. It's an insult to my



intelligence and everything else that we hold dear in civil society.

The Covid Commission is headed up by Neville Powers, deputy chairman of gas mining company Strike Energy. The crucial task of the Covid Commission is to map out a pathway to recovery from the economic fallout of the pandemic. This commission has the power to recommend far-reaching reforms in taxation, planning, and other macro-economic issues.

You might remember the Henry tax review commissioned by Kevin Rudd in 2008. It delivered 138 recommendations of structural economic reform, especially ensuring that the mining sector pay a fair share

of tax in order to bring our fiscal regime into the 21st century. Although Rudd adopted only three of them, because one of those was a mineral resources tax, the mining companies deposed him within a fortnight. Goodbye mining tax!

It was said at the time that the minerals lobby invested \$5 million dollars disposing of Rudd and reaped a benefit in saved taxation, ie theft from the Australian taxpayer, of \$120 billion; surely the greatest investment of all time. So now, ten years later, we have another chance to restructure our economy in a way that benefits the 99%, not just a few billionaires.

After careful consideration, which did not include any mention of renewable

energy, the venerable Covid Commission has decided that the only possible pathway out of debt is to take up to \$2 billion out of the pockets of the ordinary tax payer and give it to... guess who? The gas mining companies!

Do we believe they are recommending this for our own good? Powers will personally benefit to the tune of \$2.1 million if Strike shares pass 35 cents, which is almost certain with these reforms.

A recent report from think tank 'InfluenceMap' names resources companies as the greatest influence on the Australian government and a potent obstacle to reaching our Paris Agreement goals.

What about the structural reform you ask? Remember Angus Taylor, who previously lobbied to change the laws around destruction of native grasslands after his family company was charged with destroying the same? He is now pushing hard to destroy any environmental legislation which protects the public against the diabolical effects of fracking, and to toss those who voice their objection into jail.

Steal my money if you must, but don't treat me like a fool.

# Contemplations on koalas

by Pobblebonk and Oink

Spring is well and truly sprung, and some days feel like summer has arrived. We are being advised to prepare our humble abodes for bushfire. The Rural Fire Service folk are already on the ready. We could well have another horrible fire season, and political ineptitude and climate change ensures the risk is high.

Pobblebonk and Oink have been reflecting on the horrific fires of last season, their intensity and extent unprecedented, and the tragic end to much wildlife. Koalas have been used as a symbol of this tragic loss. And koalas are of special interest to Pobblebonk and Oink.

Koalas feed almost exclusively on eucalyptus leaves which are high in fibre and full of unpleasant chemicals. Most leaves, including those of eucalypts, are low in nutrients. Koalas cope with this diet in a range of ways including having a low metabolic rate and by having a digestive process that extracts as much goodness out of the leaves as they can.

The apparent inactivity and sleepiness of koalas is more a function of metabolic rate than their being bombed out by a diet including a drug cocktail of cineoles and polyphenols.

Koalas belong to the marsupial order Diprotodontia which is Greek for having two front teeth, a group comprising wombats, possums and kangaroos. With their relatively sharp pair of front teeth (incisors), koalas snip off leaves which then pass to large molars in the back. These molar teeth are not as flat as most herbivore molars, but rather specifically shaped to allow the koala to cut and shear the leaves,



preparing them for further digestion.

When Koalas chew, they use a backward-forward sliding, rather than crushing, motion that repeatedly shreds the leaves. If you haven't noticed this before, check it out next time you see a koala live, or on the electric television.

A koala's pouch leads us to the other end of their digestive tract. Koalas are sometimes described as just tree-climbing wombats on account of their backwards-opening pouch, and it has been supposed that the common ancestor of wombats and the koala was a terrestrial digger. The value of a backward-opening pouch in burrowing wombats is 'obvious' as it avoids ingress of any rocks and soil. But why backwards-opening in the koala?

Interestingly, Melbourne Uni's Marilyn Renfree has suggested that the koala's backwards opening pouch may be an adaptation to facilitate coprophagy by young koalas. Coprophagy is the ingestion of faeces. During the six weeks or so before weaning, young koalas ingest a soft material from their mother's cloaca. The role of this behaviour is uncertain, but it is thought it probably serves to inoculate the gut of young koalas with the mothers' gut bacteria, that are so important in digestion.

For the uninitiated, a marsupial's cloaca is the single opening that serves

as the ends of both the intestinal and the urinary tracts. Incidentally, the term cloaca is derived from the Latin for sewer, which gives this multipurpose orifice a most unpleasant connotation.

Coprophagy is biodiverse behaviour and is known from in a wide variety of invertebrate and vertebrate species. Who hasn't heard about dung-beetles? But did you know the iconic giant panda does it too? Elephants, hippos and giant pandas are like koalas where coprophagy involves the ingestion of faecal matter by young animals. Many other animals practice it throughout their life. It is common in rodents and rabbits. Gorillas and chimpanzees, do it! Dogs do it, and pigs do it! But why? The short answer is nutrition, but we think we'll leave the detail until another time.

But getting back to koalas, a recent study by Murray Logan and Gordon Sanson from Monash Uni found that male koalas with sharper teeth have a better sex life.

And as the kettle whistled in the background, "Time for a cuppa," said Pobblebonk, as Oink was looking for a new toothbrush... Hooroo.

If we have raised your hackles, if you have a comment or a question, or even a suggestion for further musings and ramblings, you can contact Pobblebonk and Oink at: [pobble.bonk@gmail.com](mailto:pobble.bonk@gmail.com)



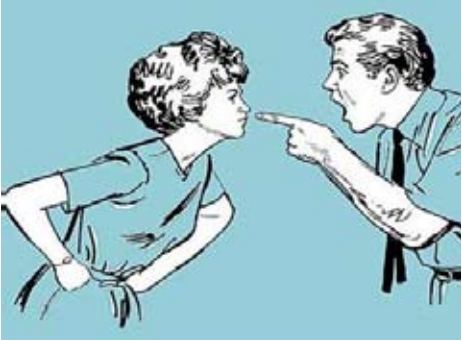
# Music studies

The world according to  
Magenta Appel-Pye

One advantage of studying music is that your powers of aural perception are greatly increased, and this enhances your listening enjoyment for the rest of your life even if you give up playing. One learns not only the technical and physical challenges of their chosen instrument, but also how to listen and hear more deeply. It is like looking at a beautiful garden. When you know the names of plants, have experience growing them, know which plants to smell, your enjoyment is heightened as you immerse your senses in what you know. The same goes with music. When one has studied for many years, your ear can detect things others cannot. I think of piano tuners who are trained in the seemingly magical ability to hear soundwaves that to the rest of us are inaudible. The study of music also massively increases your ability to concentrate. These are the people who go to classical concerts and operas and other musical events and sit there for hours in aural bliss. Their minds and hearts make sense of the sound. In the study of music, we learn how to identify intervals which are the spaces between notes. We learn about harmony and



discordance and the need for both. We learn scales, which are the keys to everything. We start to see patterns and mathematics and physics. We contact the Music of the Spheres and enjoy the stirrings of our emotional body which is ultimately why we do it. We also learn how to count and keep time, which is not a natural ability. When things are difficult, we slow down and when they get easier, we speed up. We are introduced to the dreaded metronome which highlights our idiosyncratic idea of timing. Yes, it's really hard, but that's half the fun. And it's not called 'playing' for nothing.



## She says

Why is it so hard to be in the present? Well it is a tough discipline to let go of the past, especially when one is wronged. Conscious, difficult forgiveness is our best friend when it comes to letting go. Dreams and nightmares help us work out the intricacies of the previous day/s and help us move on. And it is nigh impossible not to worry about the future. Some believe they're being caring by constantly worrying about their loved ones but it is just projecting potential negative outcomes based on their own fears. Most of the things I've worried about in my life never happened. So much time and energy wasted! But what do we mean by 'being in the present' and how do we get there, I mean here? Researchers have found that there is a three-second window of 'now'. Apparently, that is the duration of a single present moment. This three-second phenomenon repeats in everything from speech, movement to poetry. Psychologists call this window of alert perception "the feeling of nowness". It can also be called 'flow'. Flow is the experience of being fully immersed in an activity and wanting to be nowhere else. No matter how you do it, when you surrender yourself fully to what is taking place in the here and now, instead of the ruminative *if only* or the anxious *I should*, you begin to inhabit the three-second window of now. I find a quick way to become present is to watch my breath and count to three for as long as I can. I get into the flow when I write, play music and ping pong, swim, walk and enjoy time with friends.

So, Sid, find something you both love to do and discover the joy and power of Now together.

## The now

My girlfriend is always either obsessing about the past or worrying about the future. Is there any way to help her get into the here and now with me?

– Sid Arthur, Nimbin

by Auntie Maj and Uncle Norm

## HE says

The reason, old mate, that women dwell in the past, and ponder the future, is that they are deeply intelligent beings. We men, on the other hand, are about as deep as a potty. Women know that to look back to the past helps you to understand the how and why of what's happening now. Like for example, had you not drunk a bottle of whiskey with your mates last year and attempted to drive home, you would still have your licence today. The future is something women are very good at predicting. Mainly because they have it planned already. They know they're going to marry you, how many kids you're going to have, what sort of house you're going to live in and where, and how they're going to bury you. As for the present, just look around you. Likely you live in a clean, organised house. You sleep in clean sheets, have clean Grundys to wear, and a fridge full of food. Everything you need in order to give the impression to the outside world that you are a functional, civilised human being and not some poor loser schmuck, is effortlessly and gracefully provided by her being very much in the present. As for us codgers. We can't remember the past, and we have no future, so fuck that. It's in the present where it's at baby. It's all about what's on telly, what's for dinner, rumpy pump and let's go down the pub and do it all again tomorrow. *La dolce vita*. I would suggest that if you don't want a future where you'll be looking back nostalgically to the past, that you just keep your head down and your mouth shut.

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is mystery, today is a gift. That's why they call it the present.

Send your relationship problems to:  
normanappel@westnet.com.au

# Dialogues

by S Sorrensen

Morning.  
*Morning.*  
Mind if I sit here, buddy?  
I –  
What a lovely day. Don't you love this time of year?  
I –  
Did you order yet?  
I –  
You want coffee? You like latte, yeah? I'll get you one.  
*I... I've ordered.*  
Oh. Why didn't you say?  
I –  
You seem a little down.  
Quiet. Everything okay?  
I –  
How could anyone not be okay on a day like today? Sunshine, coffee, company. I mean, sure, there's problems in the world. Like this damn virus thing. Wrecking the economy. And jobs. You still working in town?  
...  
Hello? Are you still working in town? You do seem a bit strange today, buddy.  
Upset. Is something going on with you and... and, um...  
Yes –  
Oh no. I'm sorry. I liked her. She was really good for you I thought.  
– *I'm still working in town.*  
Oh. That's cool. But you must be heartbroken, eh?  
No –  
Really? Well, well. That sort of figures. Actually, I never thought it was a really good match, you two. Too good for you, I reckon.  
– *Nothing is going on with her. We're good. She'll be here in a minute.*  
Oh. She's nice...  
*I have solastalgia.*  
Oh no.  
*Time is running out.*  
Oh buddy. That's really bad.  
I'm so sorry. I didn't know.



Um, wow, how long?  
*I don't know, but the experts say it's imminent. All the signs are there.*  
Ah jeez, buddy. But you look okay. You look great! I mean, you look sad – that's normal; and I understand that now – but I can't see any obvious symptoms.  
*It might be a year...*  
Oh...  
*Maybe 50 or even a hundred years.*  
*Hard to –*  
A hundred years? What is this solastalgia thing? A life-extending disease? You really don't look sick...  
*I'm, like, homesick.*  
But this is where you live. And it's a beautiful place. Especially this morning. Look at the flowers on that native frangipani. Wow. How can you be homesick?  
*The world is sick. It's passing. I miss it – even though it's still here. That's solastalgia.*  
*It's like –*  
That doesn't make sense.

How can you miss something when it's still there?  
*It's like being with someone you love who's dying.*  
Really? That's heavy. Don't you think you're overdoing it a bit? We're talking environmental issues here, not a loved one's life. I think you're being insensitive.  
*No. You are insensitive if you don't feel grief as the natural world collapses.*  
I thought you had cancer...  
*I'm grieving, mate.*  
It's a glorious day. She's coming for coffee. You have everything.  
*I'm missing this world around me even while it's still here. And, what's more, the more beautiful each day is, the more I miss it and the sadder I get.*  
Oh dude. I got to go. I hope it floods for you. Enjoy the day.  
*I have solastalgia. I –*  
Take a Panadol.

## Revenge of the Loon

by Laurie Axtens

Recent studies indicate that most people rate their driving as above average. Obviously that isn't possible – statistical laws stand in the way of everyone being above average. Indeed, further studies indicate that people who rate themselves above average are often actually below average. This isn't true of me – I know I'm a crap driver – I have a long list of scrapes and bumps and completely levelled gates as evidence of my incompetence. Ironically, people who



claim to be less than average tend to underestimate their abilities; I'm an anomaly – I am worse than below average. I'm naff. I recall once when a small team of us went on a road trip to the South

East Forest to stop the destruction of the old growth. I had take the wheel and Stewie, the car's owner, had asked me, "Have you ever driven a panel van before?" I quipped, "Driven one? I've written one off!" Which was a lie – well it was until a week later when I did in fact write off Stewie's panel van. Sorry about that Stew. So remember this when you are on the road. I'm out there, and people who are possibly even worse. Hard as that is to imagine. So be careful – even if you are an above average driver – you will be sharing the road with complete loons.





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# our potty shed is open for play

by Katie Pennant, teacher

For the last two years at Nimbin Preschool, we have been fundraising and building our shed, and it is now ready for intense play.

The building was called a shed because we wanted it to be an open space that could be anything the children wanted, from a café to a home to a hide out.

Open-ended props have been added – funny little bits and pieces that the kids can use in many different ways. Silver goblets are one of the favourites. If you have some interesting utensils or metal pots, we would love some additional items.

In true Nimbin style, the shed emerged from long conversations around encouraging children to be in the garden. We wanted the garden



to be a play space, a space where they could get lost in their imaginations and connect to our beautiful land.

This has definitely been achieved, and we have been digging for worms, catching caterpillars and watching our

hilarious bunny lick our guinea pigs. It's in moments like this that the true magic of early childhood occurs. These are moments that become memories, ones that our children will have for the rest of their lives.

Massive gratitude to our whole community, as everyone contributed in some way: families building and donating; educators building and painting; local business donating supplies; children being patient, open and excited; and the A&I show committee for sharing their land with us.

Without volunteers, our preschool would never have been born. The community is the reason it has grown and flourished. Thanks Nimbin.

If you are interested in enrolling your child, call us on 6689-1203.

## Resilience Award winners

by Cath Marshall, principal

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I can announce the inaugural Resilience Award recipients for 2020.

These new awards are funded by the Nimbin CWA branch and the Nimbin Community School, in recognition and to support the on-going educational needs of students who have demonstrated grit and fortitude and the continuing desire to learn and do their best, in what are often difficult circumstances.

With the events of 2020, it

was a difficult decision as all of our students have shown great determination and resilience.

However, the award-winning students were selected as those who were felt would most both benefit and use this award money to ensure their on-going excellent participation in education.

The winners come from important transition points in their schooling – Year 6 and Year 11 – and each recipient will receive \$500 to be used for educational purposes.



Zoe, Cruz and Aden

The Year 6 winners are Zoe Farmer and Cruz Gower. The Year 11 winners are Beth Cooper-Wares and Aden Morgan.

Our sincere gratitude goes to the CWA and the Community School for

funding these awards and supporting what can be life-changing circumstances for young people.

Also, very big congratulations to our award winners. Well done – you deserve it!

## Massive, fun Science Week

by Kellie Cockburn, on behalf of the Science and Technology team

Every year, the love of science grows at Nimbin Central School, and this year Science Week was amazing, bigger than ever before, a celebration of our oceans and waterways, and exploration of how we can better manage the world's water resources.

Science week was also our first opportunity this year for a whole school event. Maintaining Covid restrictions and keeping students in class and stage groups, students and staff participated in a variety of events.

All secondary science classes participated in the 'Saving Nemo Project', a week-long focus on oceanography and sustainability delivered by our resident scientists.

Our keynote speaker, Linda Cash, was unable to visit, and so all of primary school and a lunchtime group of Secondary students and staff "Zoomed in" to hear her fascinating presentation on Humpback Whales and view the travelogue, *From the Tropics to the Subantarctic*.

We thank Linda for helping us celebrate Science Week and supporting our school.

There were vigorous battles for supremacy during our three 'Deep Blue Trivia' sessions. Trivia has become a Science Week tradition, and this year the break-time sessions increased in popularity and we had to double our



rooming in some cases. Our illustrious quiz masters delivered 10 questions and two instant prize questions based on the 'Deep Blue' theme. The senior session was particularly competitive, as staff and students battled for supremacy.

The most popular event had to be 'Floating Cities' where, working in small groups, students had one hour to create their own version of a sustainable floating city from scratch and entirely out of recycled materials. The creations were unique and diverse, and the best part was testing the creation in the paddling pools we set up for the event.

In addition to all of these activities, many students participated in the colouring competition and we wrapped up with a MYLI Science Pop-Up for 2020.

The Middle Years Learning Initiative (MYLI) is a collaborative program with our local network of schools that promotes engagement in stages 3 and 4 (Years 5 to 8) and helps to ease the



transition from primary to secondary school.

The MYLI Science Pop-Up was postponed in term 1 and so it was especially fitting to be able to wrap up the project during Science Week, even though we were not able to have our interschool event.

Based on selected science and technology syllabus learning outcomes, students from Class 4/5/6 and Year 7 presented their projects on the blue economy and water sustainability to a small audience.

There were computer presentations, speeches and models, and the knowledge portrayed by some of our students on their chosen focus area was astounding.

Thank you to all participants, classroom teachers and resident scientists, staff and community members who made Science Week 2020 possible.

Congratulations to all of our winners (and there are many) and we'll see you again for Science Week next year.







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