

ASTRO

forecasts



by Tina Mews
what's happening
in the heavens?

Aries

The seven-year Uranus transit through Gemini may open your eyes in a new way pressing towards a more authentic perspective on yourself, your relationships and the world in general. This can be liberating and challenging at the same time because previously held assumptions may turn out as not what you had thought they were. The more open you can be the more you will benefit from your new discoveries.

Taurus

During the last seven years, the transition of Uranus through your sun sign may have turned your life upside down. With Uranus now in Gemini - except from November until April 26, 2026 - the reset takes place in your financial obligations. If you have compromised your true desires and talents just for the sake of material security, you may be now more willing to invest in what you truly value.

Gemini

Rebel planet Uranus enters Gemini on July 7 and will return to Taurus in November. From April 27, 2026 the planet of no limits will remain in your sun sign until 2032/33 for the last time. The big reset is on as Uranus will be asking you to be a more authentic version of yourself even though others may not necessarily like the changes you are going through. Surprise yourself, be open to the new, and be ready for new experiences.

Cancer

Uranus while in agile Gemini during the next seven years will shake things up, especially attachments to past experiences that have shaped your identity. Some memories still carried with you are holding you back from being who you truly are and may be hindering your soul-growth including old hurts, resentments and ideas about yourself. It is time to reset your inner memory bank and see things in a new light. Liberation begins in the mind.

Leo

Your priorities in life are changing and what you thought you wanted, could well be losing its appeal once Uranus enters Gemini on July 7. The journey is what matters, not so much attaining a specific goal. Your creative impulse experiences a reset which ultimately is very liberating. Embrace those new connections that challenge your perspective and help with rethinking your old ways of doing things.

Virgo

When Uranus makes its first entry into Gemini on July 7 you are called to embrace the unknown. It may have become increasingly difficult dealing with restrictions and limitations that are put onto you by others and their expectations. This is an invitation to examine who you truly are and what your role in the world is about. Make whatever changes are necessary to feel more free, liberated and authentic regardless of what anyone else may think.

July

Another powerful planetary shift occurs on July 7, when Uranus enters Gemini following the other slow and slower movers Neptune, Saturn and Jupiter who just have changed signs before. Uranus has an orbit of 84 years embodying the archetype of the rebel who breaks through conventions and the rules laid down by Saturn, planet of boundaries and restrictions. Uranus represents change, chaos, freedom and originality. He was discovered in 1781 during the Age of Enlightenment, a period marked by the American and French Revolutions but also by advances in science and technology. When Uranus is in mentally agile Gemini, people can be pulled more strongly into opposing camps, seeing the other as the 'dark twin', the shadow adversary one needs to defend against. This is why Uranus ingresses are anything but subtle. The energy shifts dramatically, accompanied by a profound sense of instability, uncertainty and urgency. Seen from a higher perspective, Uranus as the god of the starry sky, is the cosmic awakener delivering humanity a big wake-up call.

With Uranus transiting Gemini during the next 7 years, we have entered the next phase in the destabilisation of the old order. **Uranus is forming a long-lasting trine aspect with Pluto in Aquarius (active until 2029/30).** Uranus in Gemini broadens our conscious awareness and our capacity as individuals and Pluto in Aquarius gives power back to the people. This trine in air signs sets new standards regarding communication technology, education and innovations driven by AI, including in transport, trade and space travel. The possible discovery of extraterrestrial life could spontaneously redraw our definition of consciousness. We are crossing an important cosmic milestone. Historically, Uranus in Gemini transits have coincided with huge turning points in the global order. Last time was during 1941-1949, when the United States entered World War II and through its involvement became a world power. The UN was founded and the Declaration of Human Rights issued. Inventions included rockets, sonar, radar and the transistor as well as LPs and vinyl records. **Uranus will be in Gemini until 2032/33 but has its final retrograde phase in Taurus between November 2025 and April 2026.**

The Full Moon in Capricorn opposite the Cancer Sun occurs on July 11 illuminating the demands of our inner and outer lives. The challenge is to align worldly ambition and responsibilities

with emotional needs and nourishment for the soul. The Capricorn Moon forms a tense square to Ceres, the ancient grain goddess, and a flowing earth trine with Mars in Virgo. It signals an invitation to nurture and accept the feminine aspects of our own nature and take better care of our emotional and bodily responses.

Mars in Virgo is approaching its conjunction with the lunar South Node (exact July 21) potentially reviving old conflicts, hurts and unresolved disagreements. This coincides with the 2nd Mercury retrograde period in the year. **Mercury in Leo will be retrograde from July 19 – August 11** offering us a three-week phase of review. We are encouraged by the cosmos to rethink our priorities including lifestyle changes, better choices in our relationships including the relationship with our children and grandchildren. It might be a suitable time to re-connect with 'the inner child' as Leo enjoys fun and play.

The New Moon in Leo on July 25 is opposite Pluto, trine Saturn and Neptune in Aries and sextile Uranus in Gemini activating what financial astrologer Ray Merriman has described as 'the Aries Vortex', 2025-2026: *"This is when darkness, chaos, division, and the manipulation of truth are at their peak. The pendulum is getting ready for its swing towards the opposite direction on this matter of 'quality of life' on Earth."*

The opposition to Pluto triggers power struggles and conflict – this may be between leaders and groups of people, between different nations or in personal relationships. The trine with Saturn/Neptune in Aries and sextile with Uranus encourages co-operation by highlighting our interconnectedness within the larger community but also where we feel separate, excluded and disillusioned. On a more personal level, the learning may be maintaining a positive mindset and regarding any disappointment as a push into a new direction. On a collective level we have reached a most critical point in humanity's evolutionary journey as an old age of the world is passing away, and a new one is struggling to be born.

Navigation by the Stars:

Personal and/or relationship astrology; Life cycles and your year ahead transits: plans, directions, concerns for 2025-2026; in person or on-line consultations; gift vouchers available.

'Saturn in Aries and Uranus in Gemini: Connecting the Cosmic and Personal'
July 12, 10am-4pm, Lillifield Community Centre.

Phone 0457-903-957 or email: star-loom@hotmail.com All welcome.

Libra

During the long-term transit of Uranus through mental Gemini your core belief-systems that underlie your sense of reality will change and evolve. Keep an open mind as your old beliefs could be challenged showing you that there are alternative ways of looking at the world. Expect to be stretched beyond your accustomed way of thinking which ultimately will be liberating and refreshing.

Scorpio

With Uranus transiting Gemini during the next years, your subconscious will be activated in powerful ways. Sudden insights may contribute to breaking down an old order and making space for a new one coming in. You are invited to do some inner work, to integrate taboo parts of yourself which may have been condemned by others encouraging you to live according to your own truth.

Sagittarius

Uranus likes to shake things up to create new space for fresh developments. For the next seven years Uranus is journeying through adaptable Gemini demanding more space in your personal and professional relationships. It is okay to have a different view on things, and you don't always have to do things the same way as you have in the past. The aim is liberation and more acceptance of authenticity, yours and those of others.

Capricorn

Uranus in the sign of Gemini for the next seven years can bring all sorts of unexpected changes and sudden shifts especially through your work and everyday routines and daily activities. Be open to more creative possibilities and opportunities, experiment and try new things as your responsibilities are changing. Your body is changing too, possibly requiring a different work-life balance. Retreat, refuel and rejuvenate.

Aquarius

Uranus is the modern ruler of Aquarius, and while in Gemini during the next 7 years your ways of self-expression and creativity will undergo a reset, some form of revolution. Uranus will challenge you to break old rigid patterns of being and relating to redefine yourself and approach life in a more authentic way. Your own quantum leap in consciousness could be a response to encounters from the outside that require you to adapt, change, and reclaim your true identity.

Pisces

While Uranus is in Gemini for the next 7 years, your focus of change will concern your domestic situation and also your inner life. Expect feeling restless at times, feeling the urge to move, change houses, communities, leaving behind the past. In any case, the need is to break with old patterns of security, a realignment of your inner essence with your outward life. Uranus wants us to become free of whatever we have become too familiar with.

Star-loom
Navigation by the Stars
Astrological Counselling
Chart Readings
Workshops
Tina Mews
P: 02 6689 7413
M: 0457 903 957
E: star-loom@hotmail.com
W: star-loom.com.au

NIMBIN CANDLES.
Open 7 days
9am – 4pm weekdays
10am – 4pm weekends
Phone: 6689-1010 Website: www.nimbincandles.com.au

TERETRE
Four cozy 1 bedroom timber cabins nestled on 33 acres of natural bushland with abundant wildlife, within easy walking distance of local restaurants and shops. Pet friendly, free wifi and air-conditioned. Overnight or weekly. Wheelchair Access.
TERETRE Cabins – NIMBIN
5 High St, Nimbin, 2480 Australia
Ph: (02) 6689 1908 Mob: 0427 891 626
Email: info@teretre.com.au Website: www.teretre.com.au



Taking a stand

by Marilyn Devlin

I've been so tired... a new kind of fatigue that settles deep... crawls, inserts in-between. Hiding and disguised. Well, it's winter... a time to move closer to home and hearth.

The ever-active cranial space that demands to know what's going on. To seek an answer... to work it all out. Come up with a solution... take this, do that... get on with doing what must be done.

It's that 'must'. It carries such a weight, such importance... you can see it, hear it... it sits in front of you... in solid form. Then there's the other voice... indistinguishable amid the noise... you strain to hear. And all you can do is feel.

There's no language for that... oh you try. Alas, it comes out in a voice that never quite meets. You just want to say it as it is.

We're going the wrong way.

It's palpable... everything has a resonance. Our contribution to the whole we exist within... it's not just physical. We emit a vibration that impacts all around us. What is our desired contribution? One for the whole... or one for just me.

That Winter Solstice crossing we made... carried with it such a weight. Again wordless, not in form... but an activation inside. We'd reached the end of one road... and started in a new direction.

"There's been another wallaby death on Shara Boulevard". My stomach clenches... I stop, acknowledge. Feel the response in my body. We speak of ways we can use our voice... our neighbourhood, our neighbours... our community.

Just a week before I'd manoeuvred the speeding cars to remove a deceased echidna from the middle of the road. My body reacts every time. It wasn't there just a short time before when I'd driven past.

'Nature and wildlife' and 'Sense of community' were the top two themes that were mentioned in the feedback to council's Community Strategic Plan.

Yes... it sounds good, but how do we get there? Make it a reality... not just words. That's not something that council can do alone... that's the responsibility of all of us.

It's up to us, each one of us... to be aware. Where am I now... in this very moment of time and space. Not some concocted future place in my head... that in reality I may never reach.

The kookaburra's been calling... what a miracle is nature. What a miracle is us... me. One life... it's said, at least as the unique person we are now... will never be repeated... ever.. in the whole evolution of everything.

We need to be abreast... of the machine. As it spreads its greedy hands wanting to dominate everything. We allow it at great cost.

Everything can be an opportunity if we're in the driver's seat... not pulled along by the promises... the promise of so many things. That never really ever arrive.

Change is constant... yet there's always paths within each change that only we can choose. What am I here for... what kind of world do I want to exist within?

July's another big month in our galactic space. I don't think the 'big' is going away... at least for some time yet. Seems we need big things to wake us up, to stir us inside... to notice what's going on inside ourselves. 'Cause that's where these voices speak.

July is also Cancer's time... our home, our family... our roots. Our need for nurturing, safety and security. It's a vital part of our biology after all.

How do we create safe and nurturing spaces...giving us all room to live in peace and harmony... aware of our place on this Earth, in our neighbourhood... and our contribution to them all.

Nimbin Trivia Time

by Eclectus

Questions

1. Does Gol Gol have feathers, fins, fur or none of the above?
2. Animal, Mineral and Vegetable: Euphorbia; euphonium and Euripides. For a point each, which is which?
3. Last month we moved up the madness scale of four levels in vernacular description with "as mad as a hatter", slightly up from "as mad as a two bob watch". This month the question is: where does the expression "as mad as a cut snake" fit in the hierarchy? Take a point each for the correct position in the hierarchy and the origin.
4. If you are purling, what exactly is it that you are doing?
5. What are pinking shears used for?
6. Maleny, Mapleton, Montville and Flaxton are all villages on the hinterland mountain range behind which major Australian East Coast surf beach tourist destination? Take a bonus point if you can name the mountain range.
7. Phenolphthalein (C20H14O4) is a pH indicator used in chemistry to assess acidity or alkalinity. Take a point if you can say it correctly out loud five times in five seconds, first go.
8. Who sang "Muma don't take my Kodachrome, Muma don't take my Kodachrome, Muma don't take my Kodachrome away" in 1973?
9. Bossa Nova, cha cha and mambo are all types of what?
10. Soccer teams have 11 a side. Cricket teams have 11 a side. For a point each, how many players take the field in a rugby league team and how many in a rugby union team.



1. None of the above. It's a town of 2000 people on the banks of the Murray River in Sunraysia, western New South Wales. The name Gol Gol means meeting place and has been in use since long before surveyor Thomas Mitchell mapped the location in 1836.

2. Euphorbia is the genus of flowering plants also known as spurges; a euphonium is a brass musical instrument (processed mineral) and Euripides was a Classical Greek tragedian playwright, therefore, animal.

3. As mad as a cut snake refers to the second highest state of mad behavior, with its origin in the entirely unpredictable wild writhing of the independent parts of a severed snake.

4. Knitting.

5. So that, when you finish your knitting, you can start cutting a serrated edge on some fabric for the trim.

6. They are all on the Blackall Range which is located in Queensland's Sunshine Coast hinterland.

7. How did you go with the tongue twister? Phenolphthalein is colourless in acidic solution and turns pink in alkaline. It is also used in, among other things, concrete, one, to assess carbonation and, two, as a laxative (although it has been removed from general sale in more recent times due to potential cancer risk).

8. Kodachrome is on Paul Simon's album 'There goes Rhymin' Simon. If he was writing it today, perhaps it would be "Muma don't take my Vodafone away".

9. Popular mid-20th century dances.

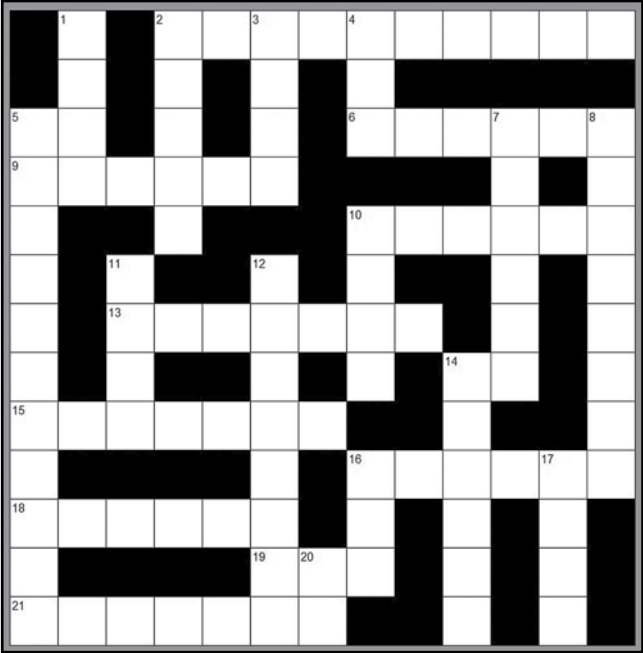
10. League has 13 and union has 15. The extra two are the breakaways in the scrum. Only rugby union still has real scrums. They are heavily regulated to minimise risk of serious injury. Rugby league scrums bring six players together in scrum formation but pushing is not allowed, also designed to minimise injury risk.

Answers

Nimbin Crossword

2025-07

by Synic



Across

2. Checkered pink and yellow cake
5. Board game with black and white stones
6. Handmaid's Tale regime
9. Edible mushroom
10. French cake
13. Cream filled pastries
14. Lions and tigers and bears oh
15. Middle eastern sweet treat
16. (See 2 down)
18. Quest?
19. Oh My God (init.)
21. Most excellent (meme, or bud)

Down

1. Longest period of time?
2. (and 16 across) German 10 across (5, 6)
3. Acid, say?
4. Encourage?
5. Spiced bread Xmas treat
7. Power
8. Deep fried torus
10. Maim
11. South Asian hardwood
12. Dry apple brandy made in Normandy
14. Berry tree, branches can make a wedding bouquet
16. Delicious sweet harvest, coevolved with wasps
17. Blackthorn fruit, used to flavour gin, say
20. Burrell, say, or Nardi (init.)

Solution: Page 34

NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street Nimbin
Phone 6689-1250

ADVICE FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS

Home of the Big Bowler

Club opening hours:

Wed-Sat 2.30pm to close, Sun 8.30am to 4pm

Sibley's Bistro open Wed-Sat 5 to 8pm, 6689-1473

- Open Mic, Wednesday 9th July, 6pm
- AGM, Sunday 3rd August, 9.30am
- Social bowls, every Sunday from 9am

ADVERTISE HERE

Be seen in 16,000 copies monthly

Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com and we'll send you a rate card

"Best value for money"



Nimbin CAPA students' Sydney trip

by Corey Wheeler

Nimbin Central School students from Ceramics, Visual Arts, Music and Extension English classes recently travelled to Sydney to visit a variety of galleries, experience a live performance, and during the evening explore Vivid where students could interact with immersive artworks.

Students travelled by train to Sydney and stayed at the Central YHA for the duration of the stay.

This was a fantastic cultural trip where students witnessed the curation, performance and public interactions with art and culture.

A trip to Sydney is a vibrant and enriching learning experience for students, offering unforgettable encounters with art, history and creativity.

Students visited the Sydney Theatre Company, The Museum of Contemporary Art, The Art Gallery of NSW, The Australian Museum, as well as The Lyric Theatre where students watched the Michael Jackson Musical.

Visiting major galleries and museums allow students to explore diverse cultural perspectives, historical narratives, and cutting-edge artistic expression.

Adding to the excitement,

Vivid Sydney 2025 – which ran from 23rd May to 14th June – transforms the city with breathtaking light installations, live music, and inspiring talks.

Students walked around, interacting with all the displays, absorbing the momentous show that is Vivid.

This immersive festival encourages students to think creatively, engage with big ideas, and see the city in a whole new way.

From gallery halls to glowing streets, Sydney offered our students an unforgettable journey of discovery, learning and inspiration.





At Rainbow Ridge we hold true to the Steiner principles of teaching.

During Middle School we do not suddenly bias the head and the intellect...

We continue to teach through the whole body, firstly through imaginative pictures, bringing the learning into the physical body through movement and finally into the intellect, creating thoughts.

Enriching Connections Unique to Rainbow Ridge

We place importance on providing an environment where students feel supported, known and loved. Students are safely held by dedicated Guardian Teachers through the middle school years. This warm and caring foundation, at a time that can be naturally fraught with heightened self-consciousness and a fragile inner self, fosters freedom of expression and a firm ground from which to find confidence and prepare for the wider world.

Middle School is a bridge, from early adolescence through a transformative phase, into High School.

Middle School at Rainbow Ridge includes Class 6, 7 and 8. We continue to utilise the comprehensive Steiner curriculum whilst meeting all outcomes of the NESA curriculum, ensuring all academic levels are attained.

Year 8 Graduates of Rainbow Ridge are socially, emotionally and academically ready to enter the High School of their choice.

A Holistic Approach

Adolescence is a time of finding balance within emotional responses, as well as seeking mastery over newly found intellectual capacities. At Rainbow Ridge we offer a program that keeps the students physically active and engaged during times of lethargy and moodiness.

An intentional program and curriculum provides rich opportunities to experience the world through all the senses. The students process these life experiences to develop healthy and sound judgments.



The Protester life-size sculpture stage 2

by Benny Zable

Sculpturing has finished now to make a rubber mould for casting the first completely assembled life size statue of The Protestor.

The plan is to have the first public appearance of the finished work ready for Melbourne's Hiroshima Day 80th commemorations on Wednesday 6th August. Check the Fundere Foundry website: www.funderestudios.com.au for details when they arise.

I got news that the statue planned for Nimbin is unlikely to gain Council approval to be installed in Allsopp Park. Plan B is to try for a statue to be installed at a rallying spot in Byron Bay.

Good news is that Lismore council plan to leave the IMAGINE circle as it is for now. I suggest a ceramic tiled IMAGINE project be created as soon as possible and to be properly funded.

I painted a replica of the Nimbin IMAGINE last year at the Creative Peoples Collective in Keen Street Lismore. Phone Janelle Buckley on 0468-875-679 if anyone would like to see and work on making a ceramic copy of it over there.

The Nimbin Environment Centre is raffling one of the statuettes that funds this project. If anyone from



The team working on moulding the sculpture.

Nimbin or Byron Bay is visiting Melbourne I would like to see you. It would be worthwhile visiting the Fundere Foundry.

Different from other foundry arts complexes, all sculptures are made from recycled materials. It's a recycling alternative energy-

run hub for creatives.

You can follow the progress of The Protester project and other great projects. I have photographic postings of the project on my Facebook page.

May the longtime sun shine upon you, all love surround you, and the pure light within you guide your way on.

Victorian Steiner School music ensemble visits Rainbow Region

by Elvis, Strings Teacher

In June, Rainbow Ridge students had the wonderful experience of taking part in workshops and enjoying a performance by Little Yarra Steiner School's advanced ensemble.

Eighteen students from Year 9 to Year 11, accompanied by two music teachers and their music program administrator flew from Victoria to the Gold Coast, visiting Steiner schools from the Sunshine Coast through to Byron and Mullumbimby and finishing with Nimbin.

After a Q&A with the high school players, in which we discussed the reasons students chose to keep playing music, with a few interested in becoming professional musicians, for most it was the fun of playing music and interacting with other musicians that kept them interested.

As a musician and music teacher, I hold a firm belief that engaging in music is a human inheritance and part of our DNA, so it was



Little Yarra Steiner School's string ensemble performing with the Rainbow Ridge players.

very affirming to see these children still so invested after seven to nine years of study.

We then launched into a workshop involving our Class 5,6,7 ensemble and Little Yarra string players, plus a couple of flute players and electric bass and guitar.

The repertoire included an Irish and Latin tune plus a tune Rainbow Ridge has been working on, which the students from Little Yarra were able to immediately read and play with them.

After the workshop Rainbow Ridge performed the workshop tunes for the school before sitting down to enjoy Little Yarra performing

a range of pieces from pop to Norwegian to medieval Spanish.

The joy these young players got from playing, especially in a group creating harmonies, cross rhythms and exciting dynamics was evident.

As our students departed to get on the bus to go home, they said "We want to play more."

First, they set up as trios and serenaded the transfixed Rainbow Ridge students as they lined up for the bus, then they all jumped into their own bus to head into town.

Locals lucky enough to be at the Farmers Market

that day would have heard the strains of violins, violas, cellos, flutes and stunning vocal harmonies.

Rural schools can miss out on some of the opportunities to engage in culture that are accessible in the city.

Engaging with the Steiner network, both within our local area, and Australia wide, allows our students access to a wider pool of knowledge and experiences.

I feel very proud that our school is part of bringing the gift of music not only to our students, but to Nimbin, and I feel sure the Little Yarra crew were delighted by the reception they got.

Funny fungi

by Kaali King

Most of life's ecological structures rely on fungi to survive, and no wonder.

Fungi are possibly the most numerous organisms on the planet, with 3.8 million estimated species, most of which are unknown to science.

They are essential for so many aspects of ecological function, such as decay, water absorption and nutrient uptake in plants, and seed germination.

Recent studies have found that fungi's neural networks within the soil (the Wood Wide Web) help to keep certain plants from becoming too dominant in a forest, preserving biodiversity by starving out certain species once they become too numerous.

Talk about smart! Some fungi are edible for people and animals, too, and are an important food source globally.

Some fungi are also pretty freaky; infecting an unsuspecting host, growing inside its body until it's fruiting time, when it takes complete control of the animal and brings it to its untimely end.

I'm talking about the zombie fungus of course!

Autumn and winter this year has been wet, wet, wet. This just happens to be exactly what fungi like. As the endless drizzles fall on Tuntabla and the mists swirl through the night, a

quiet army of fungi have been popping out little mushrooms around the preschool grounds, buildings, playground, and even on a stray mop-head (just proving that fungi really will grow anywhere.)

At Tuntabla Falls Preschool this term, the kids have been encouraged to show teachers when new fungi pop up in the grounds. This is educational as well as for safety. The teachers and other children gather around to inspect the mushrooms and the teachers ask, "Can we eat this mushroom?"

There is a resounding chorus of "No!"

"Why not?" is then asked. "It might make us sick!" comes the reply.

It's vital that new mushrooms and fungus can be identified (or at least attempted to be identified) to ensure they are not a seriously poisonous, especially for the smaller children still learning and experimenting with the world around them.

The teachers have therefore been using a fungi identification ID tool on the phone, which scans the fungus and tries to identify it using AI. The kids are encouraged to engage with this tool (under adult supervision), teaching them the basics of research and development.

I even brought in an example of a zombie fungus for everyone to have a look



at. It was very exciting for me because although I have known about this fungus for ages, I have never actually found an example of one.

It had infected a little insect, which was clinging to a plant stem. The fungus had grown completely throughout the body of the insect and there were tiny little spiky looking mushrooms sticking up out of its body.

The insect was dead, frozen in time. Everyone was fascinated but, not surprisingly, no one wanted to get too close to it.

Fungi are fascinating on so many levels, so it's great seeing the kids at Tuntabla getting into fungi in a safe and scientific way.

As a parent, it's been so amazing seeing all the fungi photos at preschool over the past two or three months of rain, and I can't wait to see what interesting little 'Fun-Guys' pop up after last week's deluge.

The commitment of this preschool to fostering and facilitating their students' interests in this area, and all other areas, really is inspirational.

Tuntabla Early Childhood

Centre is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday during school hours, and is open for enrolments now. Please call 02 6689-1179.



TUNTABLA FALLS COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Barefoot Education for the Future

0491466619 / tuntablaschool@gmail.com / www.tuntabfallsschool.nsw.edu.au



NIMBIN COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL
Playful, collaborative, multi-layered, creative, respectful, critical and laughing.

Monday to Friday
8:30am-4pm
(02) 66891203
ENROLLING NOW

VISIT WWW.NIMBINPRESCHOOL.ORG.AU



School for Rudolf Steiner Education

— Playgroup, Kindy to Year 8 —

Education Towards Freedom

02 6689 7033
www.rainbowridgeschool.nsw.edu.au

Tuntabla Falls Early Childhood Centre

A welcoming environment within a natural setting.



117 Upper Tuntabla Falls Rd, Nimbin
Preschool program: Tue-Wed-Thurs 8:30am-4pm
6689 1179 tuntablapreschool@gmail.com

We welcome your contributions

Send us an article, a photo or a letter for our next edition



Your monthly community newspaper
nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

Cawongla Playhouse

Tuesdays
Wednesdays
Thursdays
Enrolling ages 2 ½ - 5



5325 Kyogle Road
Near Cawongla Shop
6633 7167 cawonglaplayhouse.office@gmail.com

Generative AI – a counterculture perspective – threats and opportunities

by Jay Stephens

This is the second in a series of articles musing the impact of Generative AI (“genAI”). I thought hard about that subtitle. Threats and opportunities. genAI is not just a new tech, but a new type of tech. It will change the world, even when all the overblown hype is stripped away. That’s the opportunity. The main change it actually affects under disaster capitalism, might be to act as an enormous accountability shield for those wielding wealth and power, while grinding art, music and culture into commodified paste as a side-effect. That’s the threat. From the perspective of 2025, predicting genAI’s impact resembles trying to

predict social media’s impact in 2005, when Facebook and Myspace were a couple of years old, and mass smartphone adoption still five years away. The threats are vague, but visibly imminent. GenAI poses an infohazard threat. Evidence for this emerged quickly, from Google engineers with delusions that genAI was sentient (*t.ly/DqYxv*), to thousands of ChatGPT users sucked into a Messiah complex (*t.ly/uJrD2*). Humans use language both to process reality, and to describe our relations with other humans. We’re unprepared for how a language-producing tech whose “speech” only appears to relate to reality or to human relations, disrupts both our relations and our reality. In 2025 we see an arms-

race between students handing in 100% genAI coursework, versus lecturers and schoolteachers deploying detector tools like Turnitin and GPTZero. In 2035, teachers will be dealing with a cohort which (just like 1990s kids raised by TV) have been raised by genAI chatbots and the content they churn onto TikTok and its successors. Many of those kids will have had more conversations with machines than with humans. Will their minds and personalities be different? Will they be weirdly similar to each other because they all got the same stimuli from big brother Google and Auntie Amazon? And if they are still individuals, will the ones from poorer homes where mum and dad can’t afford the ad-free chatbots without the subliminal advertising come “primed to consume” in ways today’s advertisers can only dream of, imbibing brand-conscious desires with their mother’s milk and right through their childhood? Or, like the classic SciFi novel *I Always do What Teddy Says* by Harry Harrison (*t.ly/fbVDP*), will they simply be primed to obey – as soldiers, workers, or cops? Then there’s the threat of substituting fake ‘companion’ tech for human friendships – there are already hundreds of ‘companionship’ genAI chat

apps, most aimed squarely at lonely young men (see: *muah.ai* for a banal, typical example). At the other end of the age spectrum, there’s already an AI subscription that will call your parents so you don’t have to (*t.ly/exfgh*), heralding a world where the elderly are shuffled out of the loop, confused and deceived as to whether they’re talking to a real relative. GenAI’s ability to perfectly fake any online presence threatens to undo much of the on-line glue holding modern society together – voice and video can no longer be trusted, let alone text. This will mean more travelling for face-to-face meetings, and more (much more) suspicion around every transaction – already a depressing mire of passwords and phone authentication and callbacks. And what of art, music and culture? Well, as everything published becomes grist to the genAI training mill, bastions of participative, small-venue, live music and physical arts (like Nimbin) may become the last holdouts – literally the only place direct human creativity can still be found. **The opportunity** If genAI is truly a new type of technology, it will surely pay new types of dividend? If we ensure genAI brings

with it Universal Basic Income (which is urgently needed with genAI making many jobs obsolete), and we ensure it isn’t funded by relentless advertising and manipulation (which realistically means public and/or open models, which are not being run for profit or surveillance) then it just may. GenAI’s combination of human-like conversation with a machine’s tirelessness and encyclopaedic access to facts underpins threats, but also wonderful possibilities. As a conversation partner it should never get tired; should never get angry because it has to explain over and over; and should be able to guide us towards better habits and patterns of thought. With its unparalleled pattern-matching, genAI is ideal for detecting and warning against scams. Similarly, it promises to automate away much of the ever-growing bureaucracy that shows no sign of ever decreasing in this capitalist dystopia. It can be combined with expert systems to give data-driven advice (for example taking data from a webcam trained on growing plants, it can advise when weeding, water, light, or specific nutrients are needed). In the tech space, genAI is already allowing less technical

folks to build websites and produce software without coding, but this may be a mixed blessing depending on how reliable and maintainable those websites and software turn out to be. **You are here** We are right now stepping sideways into a world where apps we interact with on our phone are largely genAI coded; where after a few minutes of conversation we may realise the friendly voice that greeted us when we called a friend who’s “on another call right now” isn’t human; and where much (so much) of what we read has been produced by machines synthesising the output of other machine-generated writing, sourced on-line. What we read is also expertly algorithmically tweaked, not just for “maximum engagement” and “stickiness”; but to appeal very specifically to us as individuals, based on our location, age, Facebook and Insta interactions, and which other people have us listed in their phone contacts. In genAI, we have a globe-spanning entity with perfect recall, able to synthesise all of that to manipulate us, while always remaining polite and helpful. Treat that as an opportunity wrapped in a threat.

Applications open for local sport grants

Local sporting organisations are being encouraged to apply for a share of \$50,000 in funding under the NSW Government’s 2025 Local Sport Grant Program. State Member for Lismore Janelle Saffin said grants of between \$2,000 and \$20,000 were available for facility upgrades, new equipment and programs that support and encourage participation in sport and active recreation. “Sporting clubs often struggle to raise funds to cover everything that they would like to offer their membership, so these grants can fill those gaps,” Ms Saffin said. “Like any sporting contest, this small grants program is highly competitive, but you’ve got to be in it to win it.” Last year, the Local Sport Grant Program injected \$4.4 million into community sport across New South Wales through funding for a total of 579 projects. This year, \$4.65 million has been set aside for the program. NSW Minister for Sport Steve Kamper said, “The Minns Labor Government is backing grassroots clubs to grow participation across all ages and abilities. “The Local Sport Grant Program delivers where it matters – better gear, safer facilities, and more opportunities for people to get active and love their sport. “If your club needs new equipment or has a great program idea but hasn’t had the resources to make it happen – now’s the time to apply. “Let’s get more people moving, playing and enjoying sport right across NSW.” Applications close at 1pm, Monday 18th August. Further information, including program guidelines, is available at: www.sport.nsw.gov.au/local-sport-grant-program

Nimbin Crossword solution

From Page 31

	A		B	A	T	T	E	N	B	E	R	G
	E		L		R		G					
G	O		A		I		G	I	L	E	A	D
I	N	K	C	A	P				N			O
N			K				G	A	T	E	A	U
G		T		C			O		R			G
E		E	C	L	A	I	R	S		G		H
R		A		L			E		M	Y		N
B	A	K	L	A	V	A			Y			U
R				A			F	O	R	E	S	T
E	R	R	A	N	D		I		T		L	
A					O	M	G		L		O	
D	A	N	K	E	S	T			E		E	

by Reilly Fitzalan and Tyson Sledge

The Nimbin Headers Championship Division Men’s side have well and truly announced themselves as contenders again this season, backing up a gritty 1-0 victory over last year’s grand final opponents with a commanding 4-1 takedown of top-of-the-table Pottsville. After the disappointment of a 4-4 draw at home with Alstonville, the Headers regrouped and delivered a composed and spirited performance against Bangalow in what was a grand final rematch full of tension and tactical discipline. In a match that was defined by defensive shape and resilience, Bangalow were restricted to just two shots on goal. The game’s only goal came late in the first half from a well-worked throw-in, with young gun Brighton making his Champs squad debut finding Fergie, who finished with a clinical header. The Headers held firm in the second half, showing composure and togetherness in what was a statement 1-0 win. Our next game away was



2025 Championship Mens Team. Photo: Max Pike

against top of the table Pottsville. From the opening whistle, Nimbin looked the better side. Quinny was electric down the left flank, creating opportunity after opportunity in a dominant first half. Despite the momentum, the scoreboard remained locked, and a defensive error allowed Pottsville to snatch a goal against the run of play. Unfazed, Nimbin stayed composed. Zakaria won the ball near halfway and sent Quinny into a one-on-one with the keeper, and this time the winger made no mistake – smashing it home to level the scores at halftime.

The second half was a tight contest, with both sides struggling to break each other down. Fifteen minutes in, a positional shift saw a change in midfield, with fresh legs injected into the central defensive midfield (CDM). That move paid off, as a clever fake drew a foul and penalty in the box. Lewis calmly converted from the spot, despite the keeper guessing correctly. From there, the Headers hit cruise control. Ruben, making a return after a long injury layoff, announced his comeback with a well-taken

goal to make it 3-1. His presence and physicality proved pivotal, and his return has injected confidence into the squad. As Pottsville’s discipline unravelled with multiple yellow cards, Quinlan Cox sealed it with a fourth, capping off a statement win against the league’s front-runners. The vibe around the Headers has been electric since. Two massive results, two different styles of victories, and one clear message: Nimbin are back, and they mean business.

Peace

The art of practice

by Susan Paget

“Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.”

For most of my life I considered that sentence as just a bible hymn trotted out on Sunday mornings.

It's taken a long time for me to understand the ripple effect of our state of mind on the world around us. I think I figured this out because of my practices.

When we dedicate consistent time in the pursuit of mastering something, we also cultivate stillness and steadiness. That peace spreads out beyond our practice to those around us. Our world becomes a better place.

But news flash, our inner peace is under threat. Our phones are constantly spiking our nervous systems, a death by a thousand cuts of pings, 24/7 interruptions, shiny objects and doom scrolling.

I think that even the most dedicated practitioner would have to be living in a cave without a device to not be impacted by the onslaught of too much information and distraction.

Circling back to the 'Let there be peace on earth' idea, this disturbance makes us more frazzled, wired and tired for seemingly no reason.

We're apt to be living with a sense of fear or depression that we can't seem to put a name to.

How does this state of mind rub off on our inner circle and wider community? How does it affect the actions we take and the decisions we make?

I've been thinking a lot about this for my own life. I feel a real need to take charge and protect my nervous system to be better within myself and in turn for others because let's face it, the Zuckerbergs of the world aren't coming to our rescue!

So I'd like to share a few behavior modification practices that I'm incorporating into my routine to bring more peace into my life.

And don't worry, you don't have to strike any yoga poses or sit like a monk to do this. In fact, a couple tips actually incorporate a bit of technology.

Make something

A few months ago, my daughter was visiting and she pulled out some knitting needles and yarn that had been sitting in the closet.

We brushed up on our very basic knitting skills and began a daily practice of knitting row after row, just for fun, while we hung out on the couch.

It stuck. I don't think I can properly express the calming effect that using your hands to make something has on your entire being.

Creating versus consuming with tried and true practices that have stood the test of time – think sewing, cooking, wood working, gardening – are not only grounding, they're punk rock – a middle finger to following the herd and zombicing out on Reels.

The practice has paid off. I recently knitted my first sweater. Just don't look at it too closely!

Book power

Everyone has a god damn podcast, including me! But all this chatter doesn't nourish.

Along with real, hard copy books, when I have my headphones in, I'm plugging through audiobooks which are a far more satisfying listen than a lot of the podcast content out there.

I recently got the free "Libby" app which plugs into our library network to access a good selection of audiobooks to borrow.

The difference in the years of work that often goes into writing a book versus the fast production of a podcast is undeniable.

Pick your poison

We've subscribed to several entertainment streaming services at one time, but I've noticed recently that the programming has tanked, maybe because of budgets, AI or a reflection of our current noisy pop culture. So we've cancelled all but YouTube.

While we've always used YouTube for tutorials, it also has a huge movie library with incredible classic movies that are surprisingly relevant to today, maybe with even better actors and production.

Sinking into an old flick that doesn't hurt my head or compromise my scruples, has been a lovely way to wrap the day, often with knitting needles in my hands while I watch.

When it comes to the negative impact of these devices on our lives, I often wonder: Did the tech bros just not think their inventions through?

Or were they truly evil geniuses who baited and switched us with the lure of convenience and connection in exchange for creating disruption and discord?

Whatever their intentions, the fact is, the damage is done. To arrive at true peace in this digital world, we have to accept full responsibility for finding some kind of balance within it.

No-one else is going to do it for us.

Susan Paget is a television producer, well-being writer and yoga teacher who lives at Tumble Creek. Listen to her podcast 'The Art of Practice'.

For more information, email: theartofpracticeofficial@gmail.com

Don't get me started: Blackouts

by Harry Gumboot

One of the downsides of stand-alone power is not having an energy supplier to inform you of planned interruptions to the grid.

As a result, I was unaware of a blackout across a large part of the district until people started complaining about it on social media.

Those in the know reckoned it was advertised to run from 8am until 6pm on the penultimate Sunday of the month. Given that this was also the shortest day of the year, I doubted work would have continued much past 4pm.

Others, who claimed they'd received no notice, were concerned about the inconvenience and the possibility of waste.

On a chilly winter's day, with a stiff breeze blowing from the south-west, I saw little chance of food spoiling within the designated outage time.

Eventually — but only after a series of posts confirming that the power appeared to be on in town, the Emporium was open, and the monthly market was proceeding in the Community Centre grounds — the on-line conversation returned to something approaching normal, with posts ranging from the white-out — allegedly caused by aircraft exhausts — to the effects of wood smoke on community health.

The latter appeared to be a grey area for many and failed to get off the ground — possible due to an

PLANNED POWER OUTAGE NOTIFICATION

inversion of cold air.

By this point, a part of me was hoping the devices belonging to several posters might go flat before the mains power returned.

In the end it appeared to have been a blanket announcement with different spots going off at different times. I doubt anyone was subjected to anything approaching the full 10 hours advertised.

On the other hand, it was the longest night of the year and, conversely — as the proponents of nuclear and fossil fuel solutions constantly point out — I was faced with the sun not shining for around 14 hours.

In other news that day, the residents of Gaza and Ukraine continued to undergo regular blackouts — in some case permanently — as they have for several years.

In addition, and also unannounced, the US attempted to blackout a considerable part of Iran's nuclear industry.

The apocryphal Irish philosopher De Selby argued there was no such thing as night, that the phenomenon was merely an accretion of dark air.

I sometimes wonder what he would make of social media. Is there really such a thing as stupidity, or it just a growing accretion of self-interest?





Stay up to date with our latest listings, open homes and & more by scanning.

Find us on Google & Facebook today!



PROPERTIES FOR SALE AND SOLD BY THE TEAM



\$2,250,000

52 STONY CHUTE ROAD, NIMBIN
3 BED | 2 BATH | 10 CAR | 44.4 ACRES
CREEK FLATS | DAM | SHEDS



\$985,000

681 CAWONGLA ROAD, LARNOOK
BEAUTIFULLY RENOVATED 3 BED 1 BATH
LOG HOME | 14.82 ACRES | DAM
SHED | PRIVATE SETTING



\$760,000 - \$790,000

87/276 MARTIN ROAD, LARNOOK
RENOVATED 2 BED, 1 BATH HOME 1 BDR
HOME + STUDIO 2 CAR | 2 ACRES
STRATA TITLE | PARKLAND TYPE LAND



\$900,000

2/4 ROCKVIEW COURT, NIMBIN
HIGH END 3 BED 2 BATH HOME
SOARING VIEWS | EXPANSIVE DECK
541 SQM



\$670,000

6 COCHRAN STREET, LISMORE
INVESTORS PARADISE | 2 BDR 1 BATH UPSTAIRS
RENOVATED 3 BDR 1 BATH DOWNSTAIRS
LEASED AT \$830 PER WEEK | 734 SQM



\$1,050,000

904 TERANIA CREEK ROAD, TERANIA CREEK
2 X 2 BDR HOMES | BUSH BLOCK
TEHUTI CREEK FRONTAGE | 59.6 ACRES



\$299,000

8 TAREEDA WAY, NIMBIN
VACANT FLAT LAND | TOWN SERVICES
GREAT VIEWS | 784 SQM



\$1,750,000

5 HENSEN ROAD, NIMBIN
2X COUNCIL APPROVED HOUSES
MULTIPLE SHEDS | CREEK FRONTAGE



\$849,000

3850 KYOGLE ROAD, MOUNT BURELL
MODERN OFF GRID 3 BED 1 BATH +
STUDIO + SHED + 2 DAMS



\$1,950,000

2298 NIMBIN ROAD, NIMBIN
THE OLD QUARRY | EPIC VIEWS | DAMS
DWELLING ENTITLEMENT | 120 ACRES

URI ROSS | 0423 280 278
uri_ross@atrealty.com.au

SUNDAL HARRISON | 0413 751 184
sundal@atrealty.com.au

www.nimbingoodtimes.com

July 2025

The Nimbin GoodTimes Page 35



John
0428 200 288



Jacqui
0439 15 6666



Samara
0429 806 288



Suzy
0429 492 477



Vicki
0409 914 433



Michelle
0489 238 889

AGENT OF THE YEAR
| 2020 | 2021 |
AGENCY OF THE YEAR
2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023



NEW

13 Stewarts Way
Nimbin Land 2600^m²
\$357,000 Agent: Samara



NEW

6/1157 Stony Chute Rd
Wadeville 1.5 Acres 1 1 2
\$435,000 Agent: Jacqui



NEW

1 / 4 Silky Oak Drive
Nimbin 999^m² 2 1 3
\$565,000 Agent: John



NEW

6/265 Martin Road
Larnook 2 Acres 3 2 2
\$790,000 Agent: Jacqui



NEW

1211 Afterlee Road
Eden Creek 28.2 Acres 3 1 5
\$950,000 Agent: Samara & John



Coming Soon

124 Gungas Road
Nimbin 1.18ha 3 1 3
CONTACT AGENT Agent: Samara



Coming Soon

1959 Cawongla Road
Cawongla 10 Acres 4 2 3
CONTACT AGENT Agent: Jacqui



NEW PRICE

26 Alternative Way
Nimbin Land 872^m²
\$285,000 Agent: Samara



NEW PRICE

19 Tareeda Way
Nimbin Land 1706^m²
\$330,000 Agent: Jacqui



NEW PRICE

7/321 Blackhorse Rd
Eden Creek 10 Acres 2 1 4
\$425,000 Agent: Samara



NEW PRICE

4/3565 Kyogle Road
Mount Burrell 5 2 4
\$650,000 Agent: Samara



NEW PRICE

158 Gungas Road
Nimbin 3.5 Acres 2 1 2
\$690,000 Agent: Samara



NEW PRICE

Lot B, 1233 Jiggi Rd
Georgica 100 Acres 2 1 8
\$845,000 Agent: John & Michelle



NEW PRICE

33/78 Cecil Street
Nimbin 3000^m² 3 1 4
\$950,000 Agent: Jacqui



NEW PRICE

345 Blue Knob Road
Nimbin Land 168 Acres
\$1,100,000 Agent: John



21 Thorburn Street
Nimbin 2056^m² 4 1 2
\$850,000 Agent: John & Michelle

RECENTLY SOLD PROPERTIES

21 Alternative Way, Nimbin
112 Homeleigh Road, Homeleigh
22/4505 Kyogle Road, Wadeville
40/265 Martin Road, Larnook
108/265 Martin Road, Larnook

Agent: Samara
Agent: Jacqui
Agent: Jacqui
Agent: Jacqui
Agent: Jacqui

6 Stewarts Way, Nimbin
70 Cullen Street, Nimbin
697 Mountain Top Road, Nimbin
Lot 84, Old Tweed Road, Wadeville
6 Tareeda Way, Nimbin

Agent: Samara
Agent: John
Agent: Jacqui
Agent: John
Agent: Samara