Timorese elections
by Warwick Fry

With 160 Australians among 600 international observers in East Timor for the General Assembly elections, it was inevitable that I would run into a few. Some I had known only by name; from phone interviews, articles, and in some cases their almost legendary reputations as activists for East Timor since the first declaration of independence in 1975, shortly before the Indonesian invasion. And even these kept low profiles. It was days before I learned that the bloke I had been sharing the back seat of a dual-cab with, while we bounced around the roads of Timor, had been the operator of the clandestine radio in Darwin - the short wave link that had been the Fretilin resistance guerrillas’ only communications channel with the outside world for over two years during the 1970s: or that the quiet-spoken retired union official in the room next to mine, had helped organise the ban on Indonesian ships and Garuda Airlines, when the invasion of East Timor took place.

There were a lot of tales to be told, reminiscences, and experiences to be shared at that time of the day, but the thumbs up went to the Timorese people for a smoothly run, efficient, trouble free, well-attended election in the countryside, where Timorese trudged for hours along rudimentary roads to get to their polling-booths, more than one observer described it as being like a ‘social gathering’.

As the results flowed in it was apparent that the hope for owing for Fretilin (the biggest party forced into opposition by delegates of the CNRT who had won the first declaration of independence in 1975, and had been largely instrumental in framing the Constitution. Adding insult to injury was the fact that the most offensive statements were made by delegates of the CNRT who had favoured integration with Indonesia. Unfortunately the partnership with Fretilin was framed in terms extremely insulting and offensive to the part that had historically founded and led the Timorese resistance against the Indonesian occupation, made East Timor’s first declaration of independence in 1975, and had been largely instrumented in framing the Constitution. Adding insult to injury was the fact that the most offensive statements were made by delegates of the CNRT who had favoured integration with Indonesia.

Irresponsible exaggerated public statements by the CNRT leaders regarding demonstrations had given rise to a series of disturbances at a hospital, causing the closure of the hospital for a few days, while Fretilin leaders called for retractions and apologies.

As the President, Taur Matan Ruak, is quoted as saying: “Sadly, the violence that took place on 15th July did not come from those who were unsuccessful in the parliamentary elections, but rather has come from those who won.”

The one flashpoint where widespread serious violence could have been triggered and escalated was over the shooting, at close range, of a youth at Hera, followed the youth as he walked into the house where he was staying, dragged him out into the street, and shot him twice at close range while pushing him into the police wagon. However the ‘funeral’ in the capital last Wednesday, when Armando Pereira Alves’ body was escorted from the hospital morgue to be handed over to his family, was a peaceful demonstration despite a massive police presence and hundreds of people lining the route of the march. The family’s statements were strong in their demands for explanations, but not inflammatory or vindictive. The head of the armed forces too, realising the gravity and potential reaction to the police behaviour, ordered that all police should be disarmd when dealing with civil disturbances.

It was the placid atmosphere and the transparency of the electoral process this year that was the determinant experience for the Timorese people. The elections of 2007 and the campaign leading up to them had been marked by massive violence and disruption that left the general population with traumatic memories. The Timorese this year have put that behind them.

The d钩ipity of the funeral of Alves, the son of a FALINTIL commander who was killed in the mountains while fighting the Indonesian occupiers, bears witness to a rapid growth and development in political maturity that would be a welcome addition to the less stressed societies of more developed nations like Australia.

Violence came from those who won, not those who had lost the Parliamentary elections.

Contact me to discuss your requirements

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nimbongoodtimes@gmail.com
Vegan Love bites
by Nettie Lovejoy

"The divine is not something
high above us. It is in
the heavens, it is in earth,
it is inside us." – Mohini Uesha

This would mean to me
that the divine is in all
animals as well. Sir Paul
McCready once said that
if slaughterhouses had glass
walls no one would eat meat.
That is all I am going to
say in this article about flesh
eating. I have pumpkins on
my mind, no not literally, but
say in this article about flesh

McCartney once said that
the divine is in all

Habits of posture can do funny things
to our health, especially our spinal
health. At their worst, bent and squashed
up bodies make for bent and squashed
health. Habits of posture that do not serve
the mechanics of our body, not at all.

Way back when, I had a client who
did not serve the mechanics of my body, not at all.

We were both equally impressed
with the results of a therapy where the

It may happen that with a little extra

internal light keeps blowing out.

Feldenkrais

Feldenkrais practitioners
listed in the yellow pages
who practice in the
Richmond

Tweed area.

There is also in depth information on the
Feldenkrais method on the internet.

For this reason and because I truly
believe in the dream of a healthy world
where I would be forced to change
myself, I may suggest during my

Tonia Haynes
by Tonia Haynes
Bowen Therapy meets Feldenkrais

Habits of posture that do not serve
the mechanics of a healthy body
can potentially cause a myriad of health

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by Tonia Haynes
Bowen Therapy meets Feldenkrais

The Feldenkrais Method takes this

Habits of posture do not serve
the mechanics of our body,

every week I would chase it away.

bent, looking at the ground, in order
to hide my inner insecurities.

It doesn't work.

In order not to fall down a crevice and leave
unwitting blood stains on the rocks of
the Sydney Olympics.

Eating pumpkin into bite sized pieces (with clean
skin on if you like)

Place in ovenproof dish
easily. Sprinkle nutmeg
liberally, salt and pepper
lightly. Drizzle syrup over
this. Pour cheese sauce over

Fruit and Date Cake

Ingredients:
500 grams G/F flour
4 heaped tsp almond meal

( cuts dates in

Squeeze out as much liquid
as possible and place in a
large bowl.

Add gluten-free flour
and peanut paste.

It doesn't work.

and stand for ten minutes.

Tonia Haynes

20 years healing experience

While I was living and working in Australia,
I had a darling who loved the bush and its
challenges, so I learnt to walk with

You can make up 2 more
of mixture and

1 cup crushed cashews

First put dates in

3 cups dates

1⁄2 cup peanut paste

1⁄2 cup rice bran oil

Method: First put dates in
with one and half cups water
and cook slowly 'till mushy.
Let cool. Take about
1⁄2 cup of mixture and
reserve for top of cake.

Preheat oven to 180°C. In
a mixing bowl, put all dry
ingredients and mix well
to stop dried fruit going to
bottom of cake. Then mix
in peanut paste. Now mix
in lightly mushy dates, oil,
vanilla paste. Now you can
cut 2 more of mixture and
reserve for centre of cake,
if comes out

Ingredients:
2 zucchini

5 tsp salt

1 tsp G/F corn flour

1 tsp G/F baking powder

4 finely chopped green

shallots

1 cup grated parmesan
g
eggs, whisked

1⁄2 cup chopped dill

Sourd cream

1 1⁄3 cup of olive oil

Pepper to taste

Method: Grate 6 zucchini
and place in colander. Sprinkle with salt
and stand for ten minutes.

This is a beautiful moist
cake with a slight hint of
lemon. Sprinkle with
cocoa or caramel sauce.

It's made with dates as the
base which is always nice.
For the topping, spread
out reserved date mixture,

3 1⁄2 cups cashews

1⁄2 cup craisins

1⁄2 cup soaked apricots

1 1⁄2 cups peanut paste

1 tbsp vanilla paste

1 1⁄2 tbsp cocoa

Sour cream

1 1⁄3 cup of olive oil

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Nimbin's inaugural psychic fair

The Nimbin village is holding its first formal mystic gathering on the weekend of August 18 and 19, with a new moon in Leo moving into Virgo.

Which is appropriate according to one of the event’s organisers, international clairvoyant and Tarot reader Jazmin. “This represents new beginnings for self-discipline, will power, children and ruling one’s own life,” she said.

“We are in the process of entering a new age and consciousness based on the astrological sign of Aquarius. It’s a new age of enlightenment and self governance and freedom where we will become our own spiritual leaders. We are leaving behind the Age of Pisces which represents belief and a new age of enlightenment and self governance and freedom,” she said.

The Full Moon on August 2 might inspire us to search for new creative outlets. We could spend the day with friends and like-minded souls who pulsate on the same wavelength. Let’s think out of the square and allow our intuitive powers to emerge, both new insights and understanding. It is essential to express our individuality while remaining part of a greater network. When everybody feels understood and recognized in his or her own unique way, the need for conflict decreases. The three-week Mercury retrograde phase ends on August 7 and we can expect that communication will flow again with more ease. Mercury will remain in Leo until early September adding heartfelt vibes to rational thought. Misunderstandings can be resolved if we let go of ego and point of view arguments.

During August 13 – 17, Mars, the planet of drive and energy, is closely conjunct with Saturn, the force field signifying limitations, realism and mastery through hard work. We are reminded to get organized, develop self-discipline and patience especially regarding relationship and money issues. We might feel like rushing our head against a brick wall if we attempt to proceed with too much impulsiveness. Instead we have to walk the middle path between our logic and intuition. Our goals will not be achieved without hard work and cooperation. Neptune’s influence will be felt more strongly during this month as the gaseous bright blue planet is squaring the Lunar nodes. Neptune symbolises the numinous, psychic receptivity and imagination while the South and North node of the Moon mark the doorway to our deep seated emotional memory. Moods and attitudes that we carry over from the past and which will have present time importance have to be identified, made conscious and integrated. The Lunar nodes are the crossroads of the soul. We are reminded to get organized, develop self-discipline and patience especially concerning relationship and money issues. Focus on the positive which helps in bringing about positive resolutions. There might be a lack of clarity regarding which way to go.

Cancer

Venue the planet signifying love, beauty and harmony enters your sun sign on August 7, here to stay until September 6. Your need for lasting emotional bonds will be emphasized, including your enthusiasm to create them. The intense vibes around mid-months (August 15 – 18) might be best expressed through artisitic projects.

Leo

At times we have to take a risk and step out of our comfort zone. You are asked by the universe not to resist the changes that are taking place in your life right now. Take some practical steps towards achieving your goals. Trust your creative potential and balance your personal needs with your duty to others.

Virgo

Right now you might find that it is more convenient to work behind the scenes spending time alone or in seclusion. Especially during the second half of the month it could be difficult to express your true self because you fear that life could end up in chaos when you speak your mind. Your challenges is to help others without losing yourself.

Libra

It is essential for your evolutionary progress to become clear about your duty towards others and your need for freedom and independence. On the one hand you want space for following your creative ambition and on the other hand you feel like socializing with your friends. Proper time management is the key.

Scorpio

Your sense of personal power might be somehow eroded and you could experience emotional outbursts or at least feel overwhelmed and frustrated. Consider a change in direction. On August 24 Mars the planet of assertion enters your sun sign (until October 8). This is a great time for starting new projects and refocusing your energies.

Sagittarius

Right now you can attract philosophically inclined people into your life for the exchange of thought provoking ideas. Confusing impressions from the past might be demystified and finding clarification of the tendency to procrastinate filling your mind with too many possibilities; instead develop a sense of direction and a higher vision.

Capricorn

You are known for your patience and perseverance when following your goals. During August 12 – 17 you might find yourself confronted with circumstances that are out of your control. Deal with the issues without pushing too far. Instead take on the role of the peace maker.

Aquarius

At the moment it is important to work together with others because there is a richness of social interaction being communicated. Be aware that your insights might be ahead of time and therefore not to be unrealistic in your expectations. Avoid getting too involved in any dramas; instead direct your energies towards your own creative projects.

Pisces

You have a sensitive side to your nature, and you can be easily hurt when forced to face the harsher realities of the world. You may feel that other people do not understand you. However, when you meet each person with understanding and compassion you will feel more at ease with yourself and the world around you.

ASTRO FORECASTS

BY TINA MEWS

YOUR MONTHLY REVIEW OF WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS

August

Now it is the time to have some fun and enjoy life; be creative and just play. In your one-to-one relationships you might feel a pull between commitment and freedom. Try to balance both sides. August 13 – 17 could bring a few challenges. You will get the support of others for your ideas, if you manage to inspire them with persuasiveness and tact.

Taurus

Your home and family play a key role in your life right now. You enjoy sharing your creative talents with those close to you and it might be a great moment for sorting out any family conflict with understanding and compassion. However, you could become indecisive when opposed. Try to keep an open mind and remain independent and emotionally detached.

Gemini

Right now it is essential that you are open and receptive in your communications with others. The answers to your questions emerge when you let go of your opinions. Focus on the positive which helps in bringing about positive resolutions. There might be a lack of clarity regarding which way to go.

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For Personal Readings, Transits and Life cycles contact me via e-mail: star-loom@hotmail.com or visit my web page: http://nimbin-starloom.com.au

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I n any prison movie there’s always a Wise Old Geezer who gives gnomic advice to our unfairly imprisoned hero. The Geezer has acquired a homely wisdom and also says things like, “Perhaps one day I shall again see the sun on my apple-cheeked mother’s face.”

Luckily for Christian Bale’s Bruce Wayne, he encounters such a geezer in The Dark Knight Rises. Wayne, he encounters such a geezer who gives gnomic advice to our unjustly imprisoned hero. I don’t really matter because the plot is unfathomable anyway. If you turned off the volume and had someone bang old garbage cans in your ear in lieu of Hans Zimmer’s soundtrack you’d be no less confused. Basically, the crippled Bruce Wayne is in retirement as Batman, having taken the rap for the murder of criminal Harvey ‘Two-Face’ Dent in The Dark Knight. Remember Liam Neeson’s League of Shadows in Batman Begins? They were a bunch of super-trained Ninjas dedicated to destroying decadent Western cities in order to ‘restore the balance’. It made no sense then and makes no sense now, but anyway they’re back and plan on making Gotham City. What good this will do them is never really made clear, but they do it anyway, and Batman has to rebuild himself in order to stop them. To help him out he is again aided by Gary Oldman’s Commissioner Gordon, Morgan Freeman doing his avuncular thing as Lucius Fox, newcomer Ann Hathaway’s cat burglar The Cat, and of course reliable old Michael Caine who has most of the best lines.

Another newcomer is Joseph Gordon-Levitt as a NY cop and foil to the legendary Harvey Dent. Gary Oldman, and if I’m not mistaken Gordon-Levitt will heavily feature in any further Batman movies. At films end Christian Bale goes to, well, bale, and we get set up for another Batman franchise.

Christopher Nolan has a habit of inventing his films with a kind of empty moral grandiosity. Luckily, this is in the best comic book tradition, where characters frequently ponder on the nature of destiny, good, evil and all the other greats, but never seem to come up with any answers. The beat Nolan can do is repeatedly stress the words of Bruce Wayne’s deceased and unfortunately annoying and sanctimonious father; ‘Why do we fall Bruce! So we can get back up again!’ Really, if you had a dad like that you’d want to smack him in the mouth.

As Batman movies go Dark Knight Rises is exactly like Nolan’s previous two Batman movies. Both of them took an hour to really get going while they slogged around with backstory, then there’s action galore and huge amounts of fighting and explosions and bat-tech.

But really, what makes Nolan’s Batman movies work is Christian Bale’s Batman voice. ‘Even when he’s on his own, Batman uses it to talk himself to’. The Batman voice makes it possible to ignore the film’s anti-democratic subtext, and cheer sloganeering for the police. It makes Batman a more sympathetic character, weirder perhaps, a billionaire who likes to dress up as a giant bat, but a bit more watchable than most of the other fascists in rights that have plagued the screen this year.

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For me, his best work is the stuff he wrote for piano only. There are seven pieces, mostly six to eight minutes long. Five of them are called Metamorphosis, and were inspired by Kafka’s short story of the same name, about a man who wakes one morning to find he has turned into a giant insect. They are somewhat tranquil pieces, but in the way that a pool of water can indicate in the ripples on the surface that there is something extremely weird and possibly unnerving beneath.

The remaining two pieces are Mad Rush, written for the Dalai Lama’s entry into the Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York, and Wichita Vortex Sutra that references the poem of the same name by Allen Ginsberg.

Glass’ epis he wrote for opera and for soundtracks and so on are one thing. But the small piano pieces are worth getting into.

THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

reviewed by stephen wright

in any prison movie there’s always a wise old geezer who gives gnomic advice to our unfairly imprisoned hero. the geezer has acquired a homely wisdom and also says things like, “perhaps one day i shall again see the sun on my apple-cheeked mother’s face.”

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Ikewine

Humanity has long made the most of Mother Earth’s largest; too much perhaps? But this is not the place for a philosophical discussion. In this space I like to talk wine and even though I can’t always afford to buy the stuff I write about. From my perspective, this includes wine in all its countless manifestations from the humble and the noble. grapes. Yeah, yeah, I know wine’s also made using other fruits and vegetables but I’m talking grapes here. Amongst these is ICEWEIN (Icewine) a peculiarity, not exclusive, but predominantly made in Canada is particularly cold years. As the growing/ripening season draws to an end the weather can become very cold in those northern climes and the grapes can freeze, literally, on the vine.

Grapes, like people, are made up of all sorts of stuff, the predominant components being, like people, about 78% water. This is what freezes solids when the grapes are exposed to low temperatures. The grapes are harvested and placed into a press which squeezes out the ‘serum’, highly concentrated in sugar, acid, glycerol, flavour compounds and solids. Much of the bulk of the frozen component in the grape is water, as ice, and is left behind in the press along with the skins and seeds of the grape berries. This process results in a wine that is potentially twice as high in concentration of sugar, acid and flavour compounds as if the grapes were expressed as total juice. The juice is only partially fermented, retaining a higher sugar level (residual sugar – RS) in the finished wine and also a higher concentration and intensity of flavour the higher glycerol concentrations contribute to an unctuous, almost silky, palate texture.

Because of the necessary growing conditions these wines are produced only every few years and it has been noted that the frequency of their availability has decreased over the last decade so with many producers saying this is a reflection on global warming. Ironically saying this is a reflection on so with many producers over the last decade or availability has decreased and the residual sugar levels are potentially twice as high in concentration of sugar, acid and flavour compounds as if the grapes were expressed as total juice. The juice is only partially fermented, retaining a higher sugar level (residual sugar – RS) in the finished wine and also a higher concentration and intensity of flavour the higher glycerol concentrations contribute to an unctuous, almost silky, palate texture.

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It was no surprise that nobody was waiting when I arrived at the Nimbin car park at 6.30 am on Sunday July 8th. At 8.30am this walk was the longest our Club had ever proposed. I drove through the caldera as the sun rose. The big scrub turkey was churring a trail of cloud, westward. Waiting at the Nimbinah tick gate were three others, Don, Dave and Lori, the cream of the crop, the hard men and women of the Club. We would give it a go. The walk started at the prison farm in the glorious Nimbinah Valley. We had 600 metres of elevation to climb before lunch. The track was signposted and well-formed, part of the Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk. We got to do a quarter of this long walk just today.

As we approached Binna Burra Mountain Lodge we passed increasing numbers of people; family groups, young lovers, steady walkers, the casually curious and bushwalking clubs. The lodge, surrounded by Lamington National Park, was an oasis of comfort and luxury, at a price. We wondered if there was enough time to do the rest of the walk on this, one of the shortest days of the year. We upped the pace to get out before dark. It was another nine kilometres and a further 150 metres of elevation to climb along the Border Track to Mt Wagawn. There were some highlights, like sitting on sun-warmed rocks at a lookout 1000 metres above sea level and listening to a distant lyrebird opera. My eyes scanned the bush for photographs. It was as if a vacuum cleaner had sucked the rainforest clean of fungi, fruit, flowers and the natural curiosities that we are used to. Our own Nightcaper National Park had a lot more to offer of things that please the eye. At Mt Wagawn the track ended abruptly. Here the real walk began. We had 600 metres to drop, and no tracks. The sun was worryingly close to the horizon, the air frigid, and bodies were starting to feel the strain. Plunging down we passed orchids, huge cedar that had escaped the loggers, figs and the cliffs that form the NSW border. We made it to Bushrangers Cave, a huge overhang that is always dry and welcoming. We still had daylight, and made it back to the cars with a little to spare. A big day. Seven walkers turned up at the Cambridge Plateau Rest Area for a day of local wanderings and a camp. Firstly to Culmaran Falls: 12 years ago this walk was shown on the National Parks brochure. Something everyone was encouraged to do. Now there is no track, or signage. You have to know that it is there and find the place yourself. At the top of the falls we found a field of greenhood orchids growing in moss, in an open place, each one facing in a different direction, as if looking for the gnat that would help fertilize them. Water rushed between rocky columns to form a helpless plummet to somewhere below. We too were soon at the bottom of the drop. Beside the falls was a cave, formed by an eight-metre-high slab of rock sagging away from the cliff. Pushing it relentlessly were two huge chuck stones, forming the roof of the cave. Nearby, dancing columns of rock, some with huge figs spidering the cliffs. It was a dark, rocky, crumblly place, which we were slow to leave. Next we walked the Culmaran Loop Walk, all steps, bridges, signs and fungi. Some of the best and most accessible rain forest we have. We spent the night here with a few ticks and leeches for company. Fire, damper, warm food, stories, possums howling and a view of distant mountain ranges, the lights of Casino and Lismore reflecting off the clouds. We had planned to visit the curiously named Bungdoozle on Sunday but the road was too wet. Don, our leader, instead concocted a walk whereby we parked on the side of the Bruxner Highway and the new nine of us headed into the Mallanganser National Park. There were no tracks and the place seemed to be visited only occasionally by Red-leg Paddymelons and cannaus growers. About were trees of many kinds, Pythom Tree, Queensland Lace Bark (which we smacked to hear its unique ring), Australian Teak, White Elm, Cudgerie, Yellow Wood and Butt Wing Coral. About every five metres was a Funnel Web burrow, with the legs of its occupant just visible. We did not annoy them. It was safe to pass, and we were glad we came.
Nimbin Garden Club Notes

by Bernadine Schwartz
Club Visit to Mountain Top
The Garden Club was provided with the opportunity to visit another beautiful local property on 21st July. The property, named Mountain Top, after its location off Mountain Top Drive, compensated for the not so sunny weather, with many members still in attendance.
The stunning property was purchased by Andrew Barton and Nick Trews five years ago when they moved from Brisbane and have since transformed over 25 acres of the 100-acre property. Once overgrown with lantana, the landscape has been converted to a picture of manicured lawns, footpaths framed with garden beds, pockets of orchids and native trees.
Entering the property, the driveway sweeps through a grove of gumtrees (the only established trees on the property when it was purchased) with all this cold and rain I’d disguised by the colours of death and its owners Andrew and Nick.

The world according to...

The dam is a highlight of Mountain Top, where the lush lawn grows to the very edge of the water, meeting the water lilies resting on the water's edge. The dam more so resembles a lake, with the owners using it as a swimming hole in the warmer months. However, as a visitor you may be taken by surprise, with a life-like crocodile head lurking in the water to greet you. The grassy border of the dam continues into the water creating a grassy jetty, one of the most wonderful features of the dam, with a welcoming outdoor setting at the jetty's end.
The property is an absolute credit to its owners Andrew and Nick.

Next Meeting
The Garden Club's next visit will be 18th August, to visit the beautiful rose garden of Mrs Dawn Burr, on Link Road, Wadeville.
The property is approximately 1km from the village. From Scrop Shute Road, turn right into Kyogle Road, Link Road is on the left, go past the Wadeville Store and the next house on the right hand side of the road is Mrs Burr's property.

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Mr B, the doppelganger of Mr D's old friend, is on the right hand side of the road is the Wadeville Store and the next house on the left is Ms Nicki's. Her property.

I see no difference and I now prefer my old friend, Mr D. I am sure he will be happy to have his old friend back. Mr B, I hope you enjoy your visit too.

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THE NIGHT LIFE IN DILI

Ironically Yours

Travel diary of the irreverent Dionne May

For a woman, going out to eat anyplace where in the world requires a fair amount of awareness, discrimination and streetwise resilience. This is no exception. It's a small capital city where the term city hardly applies. It's more like a large country town with very few buildings over two storeys, no large shopping centres, little street lighting and pot holes everywhere.

It is also a highly conservative place with a population that is 90% Catholics, so for a woman to not be home by 6pm implies all sorts of evil! Dili back's up its high moral code by simply shutting down after 6pm... only 'malia' (white) bars are open after this time. The plethora of taxis that operate streets during daylight disappear at dusk. Without transport you are going nowhere fast! You may well find one lady woman, as well as the ex-pat bars late at night, but be wary, as they pride themselves on high prices and charge whatever they think you will pay in desperation to get home.

Even more disturbing is the absence of police after dark. During the day you have the plethora of taxis, Portuguese police running themselves on the beaches and UN police driving around in big, fast 4WDs. At night the only visible police appear to be off-duty Australian ones drinking heartily in the local bars.

Right, so you've organised your own transport and off you go to be greeted by a bar full of men. The perception that you've hit the jackpot quickly turns into the realisation that you have won the booby prize.

These guys drink... a lot ... and in groups of four ... or five. With spouses and family nicely tucked away back in their own countries they appear to be re-living their adolescence. So the adventurous night and the rush of male attention is slowly crumbling into a dream, then a recollection as you become the object of their desire. It's funny that this lust or desire is still dressed up in the guise of 'love'. In the past two months I have been declared 'love to' roughly once a week in an array of colourful and varied ways! The beast so far was a guy who upon being introduced held my hand and said, "Look into my eyes, I love you and I am going to hypnotise you so you will love me.'

I gave this guy the killer-on-eye-brow arch, which translates as 'mate you have GOT to be kidding!' But still this guy proceeded to get down on one knee to kiss my hand. I'm all for a 6ft 4inch Zimbabwean getting down on his knees for me ... but is this love?

Guys, let's call it a spade a spade! Because this 45-year-old won woman is and is picking up that spade to either hit you over the head or to dig a hole to deposit your crap into! It's not the declaration that is the problem, but how as a woman you have to prove your lust. A good plan of action is a) smile like they have just found one fellow out there who is just as bad as you, b) make meaningless small talk til 'c) you get the hell out of there before things turn ugly.

It's nice to go home and appreciate that at age 33 I have at least learnt the difference between love and sex so I can simply enjoy the attention.

So ladies, be safe by planning ahead, keep your wine about you and know exactly what you want. And if you want an alcoholic, air-guitaring, cigarette-smoking married man of varied nationalities then Dili by night is for you!
Living in the Woodenbong Hills

by Marilyn Scott

G ee, it’s the August edition. What’s happening with time? In one sense, it seems like 2012 has gone on for years, and at the same time, for just a few weeks. Something is definitely changing; it’s either our perception or time itself. I reckon a bit of both. It try and think back to what happened in early June and I simply can’t recall it, it’s gone — and it’s not Alzheimer’s either. There’s just so much happening moment to moment, it’s impossible to contain it all in our brain cells. Maybe it’s teaching us to live in the ‘moment’ …

It has now been 40 years since the last major fire went through our district – far too long for many locals to remember. Fires are a naturally occurring part of our environment, so this article is concerned about not IF the next major fire comes through, but when. After years of wet weather and very little slashing done on the roadsides or boundaries, we now find ourselves surrounded by very thick layers of fuel. Now is the time to deal with the fuel that has built up.

Becoming a diverse community, you will find some people grazing their land, some spend half the year mowing and slashing, some do a bit of both, and some do nothing. Some people are managing a kind of transition from paddocks to forest/orchard. In the meantime, despite all these land use attributes, the Camphor Laurel have taken over huge areas. They are surrounded by tall grass, dense with years of growth and, in places, bowed off by frost. Many of these areas now are so thick that machinery use – other than bulldozing – is nearly impossible. Look around you! We are all now connected to the same fuel. It does not matter whether you think every camphor is sacred, or that they are weeds: Once the humidity falls below 25 percent and the temperature above about 25C, camphor fires give off flammable gas that burns with an intensity that starts from the ground to well above the canopy. So do young Eucalyptus. Add to this all the tall Setaria and Bladex Grass – particularly near the suburbs and co-ops — and you have the fuel for major fires. But that’s just on level ground. Burning up slopes, fires gather a dangerous momentum and create strong heat/wind drafts that accelerate the whole process. This community is used to be a mosaic of different land uses, now it’s not. Now we are seeing a very different landscape; subdivisions where grazing used to give safety now depend on slashing that does not get done; old fire trails are now completely gone; and old logging roads are closed.

Landowners who burn at exactly the right place and time are rare; in fact basic fire-management advice is unfortunately rare in most property owners. A lot of people now also live in places that no longer have an emergency place to flee to in case of bushfire. They live down access roads that do not have avenues of escape. Should the (often overgrown) road be cut off, firefighter crew leaders will not put their crews in peril on a overgrown track that is well alright. It seems that many people and communities are doing nothing to mitigate this future risk. It is too late to clear and burn when it is suddenly dry and hot - to move those piles of fuel next to your houses or shed while a fire is approaching. Every serious fire season in the north of the state has been preceded by a La Nina event. Every one! As soon as it dries out enough, you really need to get seriously busy and get into it. Ringing ‘ooo’ is not a land management tool! Fire is a natural and important part of our Australian landscape. Filling bush land with flammable structures and families is not. If you want to live in the bush, you need to get off your ass and look after your own fuel.

Collectively we need to get busy and get organised. If you live on a multiple occupancy, go to the meetings, educate your neighbours. Slash your place as it dries out. Help the informed ones work efficiently. Get advice. Do a bit every week.

Clear your rural property. Join your Local Rural Fire Service. If you do not, when the fire comes, you will have to stand back and watch what happens. It is too late for that. Many people are not aware that it is now not legal for people not trained and in proper firefighting gear to work alongside us. We need you. You need us.

Most of the time, Nimbin brigade turnout numbers are so low that we can only crew one of two tankers. Join us and learn the ropes. It takes a while to gain experience and become a good firefighter. Better get started. We are getting older. Bushfire brigade members in the Northern Rivers have an average age of well over 50 years old.

Nimbin Brigade meetings and training are the first Thursday of every month, 6.30pm at the station in Sibley Street. Any one over 16 years old is welcome.

Burning piles by Charlie Cohen, senior deputy captain, Nimbin Rural Fire Service

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by Simone and PAC

August is the pointy end of the season. The men's 5th division are having a corker of a season and are certain to have a spot in the finals, at least one of which we hope will be held at home. Check.

Nimbin-Heads fifth division have sneaked away from the pack after a 4-0 win at home on Saturday 21st July against the second placed team Uki Pythons, who were not good enough to put the squeeze on us. It looks like the women might just miss out, but they have really come together as a team over the course of the year, with improvements in fitness and ball skills. The women remain in 6th position on the ladder. The 22nd July saw a 3-1 win at Uki. It was a hard-fought game with a starting line-up of only 9 players. Thankfully the game finished with a full team. Miki in goals saved many, including a magnificent penalty, with about 10 minutes to go.

On the weekend 28th and 29th, the men's 5th division were away to Alstonville and won 4-0, with Gary Walker having a niggling injury and only coming on for the second half and scoring a hat trick, Miki getting the other goal. Well done boys in keeping the pack still at four points behind.

The women's fourth division battle at Ballina. They fought to the bitter end, but went down 2-0 after going in at the break 0-0. Coach Bruce Harfield had a defensive line up on the field with our striker playing sweeper. There was little scoring opportunity and the game was all about defence. The back line played well and shut the opposition down again and again. The Ballina team scored on two lucky occasions, a dubious penalty and a scramble coming in from a corner kick. The ground conditions were boggy at best, quicksand at worst. It made for a tough game, but as always every team member ran their bloody hearts out to the final whistle and walked off the field with heads high and smiles plastered on their faces.

Grade 9: Team of the Week
The Grade 9’s, coached by Paul O’Reilly and Mark Wright, are a group of young footballers from at least five different schools. They have come together and developed a true team spirit. There is a great deal of respect for each other in the group. They genuinely care about each other and look after each other. The stronger athletes in the team take a leading role but not at the expense or exclusion of the weaker players. This is what makes them such a formidable force on the field. Everyone has a go. They also have great respect for their opponents. On the occasions when they have been winning easily they have deliberately eased up, even allowed the opposition to score, getting some joy out of the game as well. This really is a very impressive group of kids that are an absolute joy to be involved with. They are getting the most out of what team sport has to offer. There are a lot of adult teams out there that could learn a great deal from these youngsters. There have been some terrific individual performances from Ollie with his dynamic all-round play and team organisation. Without a doubt, he is the most outstanding player in the competition. This is backed up with an across the board commitment and effort from the rest of the team. Julian stops all comers in goal. James smashes home goals up front. Mitchell works hard in midfield. Molly defends with well-timed tackles denying opposition attacks. Win, lose or draw, this team enjoys every moment.

Upcoming home games
Mens 5th Division:
Sat 4th August 1pm Byron Bay
Sat 18th August 1pm V Richmond Rovers
Sat 25th August 1pm V Lismore Workers

Womens 4th Division:
Sun 5th August 12.30pm V Goonellabah
Sun 19th August 12.30pm V Ballina

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