

Pet adopt-a-thon

Over the weekend of May 6th and 7th, the annual Pet Adoptathon will be staged at the Lismore Showground (animal nursery). Animal Rights & Rescue Group participate in this world-wide event each year, re-housing many of our cats, dogs, kittens and puppies as well as providing information and pet care advice.

The event will start at 8am and run through to 2pm (an earlier finish due to Lismore Speedway). An adoption fee applies which covers the desexing, microchipping and vaccinations up to date of the animal.

Everyone is welcome to come meet our rescued animals, or to find out more about our work. A gold coin donation would be most appreciated as we are totally self-funded!

Please note, if you are renting and plan to



adopt a new family member on these days, written consent from an agent/landlord will be required. This is to protect our foster animals in the case of 'no-pets-allowed' leases.

To view many of the animals in care, visit our website on www.animalrights.org.au. For more information, please phone 6622-1881.

Visit the CounterCulture Wiki – share, edit and write it with us!

by Alpheus

We are currently editing more than 97 articles, and you can help to edit and create more.

Have a look at our website at <http://counterculture.wikia.com>. Those who are familiar with wikis such as Wikipedia will probably get the hang of it pretty quickly. Our wikia is about the Counterculture of today and through history.

But what does 'Counterculture' mean?

It's a wide term, and we won't try to narrow it too much.

Our realm covers centuries, decades, years, days and fleeting moments. Great social movements, inspiring men and women, and partly baked ideas.

We take a wide view, that's



why the person in our logo is Gerrard Winstanley (1609 - 1676), with a hippie flower in his hair. He was countercultural, radical and very influential. Had he lived in the 1960s, he might have been at Woodstock or a Martin Luther King rally. In the 1970s, he might have picketed the Oz Magazine Trial or attended a ConFest. In the 21st Century, he might have been arrested at a demonstration opposing

the International Monetary Fund, and chances are he might live in an eco-village designed with Permaculture principles.

It's hoped that contributors will take the attitude that many viewpoints should not create conflict here. There is room for us all and our varying ideas and interests, so (taking a 'leaf' out of old Winstanley's hat) -- let a thousand flowers bloom!

The term 'Counterculture' (that's how we spell it here) popularly refers to a Western movement of alternative lifestyles and dissident political thought of the late-20th Century. Although the term was specifically coined for a 1960s - 1970s Western phenomenon, this Wikia takes a wide historical perspective ...

Thank you, and I hope you dig it...

The Nimbin Garden Club

Monthly meetings held on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Visitors and new members are most welcome. For more detailed information, please contact Lindy on 6689-1217 or Gil on 6689-0581. *Photo shows Phil Dudman sharing his gardening tips at a meeting.*



Official communiqué



The Nimbin people's intergalactic blues festival was a complete success. We'd like to thank all you beautiful people for participating in making this peaceful festival happen. Globalised localism.

It was about getting free art to the people. The Magic Hat proceeds were sufficient to provide a free showcase of local performance art and music throughout the weekend. Free music to the people!

Has Jimmy created a monster?

Happy Mothers Month

Indeed, May seems to be in a big way, dedicated to mothers. We have the National Mothering Week on the first week, Mothers day on the 14th and the International Day of Families on the 15th. I hope you receive lots of TLC during the month. A pleasant family outing in May could be the Gem Festival at Lismore Showground on 20th and 21st. There is something for every purse and all ages.

We also have Sorry Day on the 26th, when we can grieve with our sisters for their loss of country and self-determination, and at the same time celebrate incredible resilience and courage, which seem to be attributes women share all

over the world and through the millenniums.

Then Nimbin has the Family Centre (you know, the purple house on Sibley Street) where families are celebrated throughout the year. Kids, Mums, dads, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Friends, Carers etc are all welcome.

This month from Thursday 11th the Centre is offering a 6 week P% parenting program, from 10am to noon. P5 is about understanding our

children's behaviours so we can support and guide them to grow into their own confident and independent selves.

On Tuesday 9th, Alison from Tiny Talk is coming at 11.30am to introduce us to the notion of baby sign language.

If you want more info about the Family Centre, drop in Mon, Tues and Thurs between 9am and 4pm, or ring Marie on 6689-0423.

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Inappropriate photo

First congratulations on another fantastic issue of the *GoodTimes*. However I would like to draw your attention to the article on page five by Lizzette Twisleton. How great it is to see a regular article on such a sensitive issue appearing in your publication.

But when I first spotted the story I was surprised to see a photo of three young women wearing short shirts accompanying such a serious issue.

In my opinion this photo was not appropriate and trivialized the relevance of such a significant issue in our community.

Tim Tonkin

Thanks for your comments, Tim. I agree the photo was a poor choice, and apologies to those who read meanings into it that weren't intended. A case of too much to do by too few people, I'm afraid, not helped by the copy coming in well after deadline. - ed.

NGT Sexist

I am writing to voice my utter offence in regard to the photo accompanying the article by Lizzette Twisleton entitled "Making a safe community", NGT April 2006.

The photo of three women wearing short skirts with the caption saying "Bus loads of attractive young women come to Nimbin daily", says three things to me:

1. The newspaper is using "sex" to sell a story about rape!
2. It sounds like an open invitation for a meat market, and
3. There's obviously no real understanding of the issues facing women in today's society eg safety and all the associated effects and repercussions.

Photos like this do nothing towards promoting an attitude of respect, but trivialise the very sensitive and prevalent issue of safety/rape/violence in our community. It encourages the myth that rape victims are "attractive", and that what is worn in public (eg short skirts) indicates "fair game".

My assumption of the newspaper's

attitude and misunderstanding of the sexism issue was then validated a few pages later in the reporting of the Blue Moon Cabaret, with your conjecture regarding the freelance journalist "in a short dress".

Yours in disgust,

Deborah Woodbridge

Negative media agenda

I would like to express my confusion and disappointment at seeing the photo of young girls standing in the street chosen to accompany Lizette Twisleton's article about Sexual Violence in your last issue of the *GoodTimes*.

Why is it that women's physical appearance is stressed when it has no relevance to the subject of the story? The image doesn't work with the article's content because it's coloured by stereotypical thinking i.e. how young women dress attracts inappropriate sexual behaviour.

And while the image creates a one-dimensional perspective of how girls and women look, Lizette's words create a gender solidarity that encourages women and men to transgress constructed behavioural codes and deny stereotypes (brought about by the media or expectations from another generation). In the photo, passivity and inability to act are emphasised which disrupts the intention of the article and misrepresents the young women pictured as vulnerable?

The true negative power of the media comes not only in the visual misrepresentation of what a woman looks like, but in the ability to detach a woman's body from her personal and political voice. The photo clashes with the true intention of Lizette's voice, and reduces the article from a political message to a narrow conceptualisation of gender, and a stereotypical image of girls.

Images and messages presented in the media have a strong influence on how adolescent girls view the world and their role in it. When women are 'visible' in media content, the manner of their representation reflects the biases and assumptions of those who

define the public - and therefore the media - agenda.

More than twenty-five years after the international community began formally to recognise the scale of gender inequality in every aspect of life, and despite the adoption of many measures to redress gender imbalances, the power to define public and media agendas is still mainly a male privilege.

Shar Hill
Lismore

See further analysis in Lizette's article on page 8 of this edition - ed.



Public Toilets

In a past issue there was a letter from the Nimbin Community Centre (NCC) co-ordinator 'Dealing on Common Ground', lamenting the use of the public toilet area, by inconsiderate junkies moving into the Community Centre and Neighbourhood Centre territory.

The toilets are there because the development of the Community Centre on the old High School site as a Community Centre, could not have been accomplished without them.

At the time, most of the white powder/trading/injecting/squabbling and other nastiness happened between the School of Arts and the Pub, in and around the old public toilets.

When the Education Department purchased land on the western side of the village for the new high school, their original site in the centre of the village came up for sale. The value was placed at \$500,000 + if purchased commercially. But if purchased by a community group the price would be \$280,000, Education Department subsidies (the price difference) of the past would be forgiven.

The NCDA, whose president was also a councillor, arranged for the Council to finance the enterprise: if the NCDA could raise half the money, the Council would carry the mortgage over a period of

time. In other words if the NCDA could raise \$140,000 the Council would finance the rest. After many months of fundraising and an approaching deadline it became obvious that the amount raised was well short of the required amount. The NCDA was only able to raise \$95,000 towards the purchase. In the end it was the Community School (a shadowy educational institute) who loaned the NCDA the \$45,000 to meet the minimum purchase price. Against the will of the NCDA management, Council also required a Development Application to be lodged. It was during this process, that it became obvious that there were virtually no existing toilet facilities available for tenants, let alone the public.

A deal was brokered. NCDA sold the land on which the toilets now stand to Council for about \$5000. Council then built the toilets. Hey presto, problem solved. The NCDA saved many thousands of dollars and got the required toilet facilities to cope with their rent paying tenants. Part of the deal included the closing of the old toilets to the public and turning the facility over to the Nimbin School of Arts. Predictably the IV white powder dealers moved to their shiny new premises within hours.

The chief organizer of these dealings was heavily criticised at the time for ignoring these predictions, fobbing them off as nonsense.

Mal Rothwell

Letter submitted 24-11-05, then withdrawn. Published now, unedited, at request of author - ed.

Re: Mardi Grass '06

Liberty, the freedom of a social development. By what experiment do we deny freedom?

To re-accept alcohol abuse, the cost of human tragedy. The morality of a totalitarian judgement, by what definition of freedom.

The psychology of ordered social development. Nepal and the resurgent peasants of China. A social denial.

Industrial reform, the tactics of economic moulding. The reality of both governments and private sector deficits leaves the U.S.A. as a good example, I suppose.

Regime economics, totalised potential of module economics. The total collective.

What is the economics of freedom, the affordability of social development? Certainly if you like cigarettes you have to be able to afford them.

What is the good of money if you can't spend it, especially on weekends? Is that what government economics is about? A denied weekend.

Victory to freedom, a respect for more than one culture.

Les Taurins

Upper Coopers Creek via
Rosebank

Notices

RIP "Duck"

Known by everybody, helped everybody, the more down you were, the more he helped you. Beloved father of Ken, Laurie and Kim, father figure to everybody.

Laid to rest 12th April 2006, aged 67.

Casting Call

Nimbin Players will be presenting Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* in its Spring Season in September 2006.

Auditions will be held on 20th May at 10am in the Nimbin School of Arts Hall for the following roles: Maniac, Bertozzi, Pissani, Constable, Superintendent, and Feletti.

Although Feletti is the only female part in the original, there are no artistic or commercial reasons stopping us from casting women in any role. The Director encourages any interested people to audition for any role.

Scripts are available from Perceptio.

Please contact Martin Gill on 6689-7255 or yam@border.net.au for further information.

**Awareness Retreat -
Rosebank NSW**

The next retreat will be held from 10am Friday 12th May to 5pm Sunday 14th May. Although there is a modest \$50 fee by Samaya for the use of facilities, the retreat itself is free of charge.

For more information phone 6684-4146 or visit www.byronevents.net

About us

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Council jottings

Jenny Dowell

Many NGT readers will have already caught up with the major items discussed at the April meeting of Lismore Council. Probably the most contentious was the proposal by Cr David Tomlinson to



assist rural residents from the north side of Lismore who may find the drive to Wyrallah waste facility a disincentive to recycle, a DOC will be established near the saleyards for a trial period subject to contamination rates.

As usual, the expenditure on capital works on rural roads caused much debate at the last meeting of the Strategic Plan Steering Committee. With \$1m

to be earmarked for 5 urban roads and \$1.8m for 5 rural roads, the major debate was on the annual allocation of \$200,000 for the sealing of gravel roads. Unfortunately the demand far outstrips the money that will only seal about 1.3km of road.

The Roads Policy Advisory Group uses a points system based on traffic volume, bus route, safety and other criteria to objectively assess each road. In 2006-7 the roads to be recommended for completion of sealing are Terania Creek and Tuntable Creek Roads. In the 2007-8 year it is proposed that Stoney Chute Road will get the entire allocation to close a gap between sealed sections. Unfortunately this is at the expense of Lillian Rock Road that has greater traffic volume and is less safe but should be sealed in 2008-09 unless additional money can be found before that time.

Expect to see the draft 2006-7 budget advertised in the next few weeks. The budget and the accompanying fees and charges will be on public exhibition for 28 days during which comments are invited. The final budget will be determined at a special meeting of Council on June 20.

I've had several recent trips to Nimbin to participate in a variety of local events and particularly enjoyed the Autumn Arts Fair and the current exhibition at the Blue Knob Gallery and was delighted to be a mentor for a Young Women's day at Nimbin Central School. I invite residents to come and talk to me about Council issues on the first Monday of each month prior to the meeting at 5.30 pm.

The proposal to close down the recycling Drop Off Centres in the urban area may be of interest to some Nimbin residents. The high contamination rate and cost has become prohibitive and we have decided to commence a curbside collection of recyclables to urban residents. The Nimbin transfer station will remain open and the Wyrallah Rd depot will still receive recyclables but the DOCs in Brewster St, Dawson St and Holland Ave will close. To

and they can have company, a talk, tea, porridge. You feel vital again."

Mark as been co-ordinating efforts to clean up the gravel pit, and so far have disposed of over 200 sharps, many in bulk fit packs. "I'd like to see it become Earth Park," said Mark, who said their presence had deterred several dumpers, who had turned and driven off. They recycle all their organic material, and use the toilets in town. There is still a tip-truck load of rubbish to remove, including tipped whitegoods, but about half of the whole area is now

We don't call it a 'soup kitchen'...

Heidi and Mark provide a space "for people to come to feel safe and to heal," created under canvas between their van and caravan. Using donated blankets and food, they have created a haven for the homeless, but they have expectations.

"It is a drop-in centre, but we're not a doormat," said Heidi. All are welcome in whatever state they're in, but no drugs or alcohol are permitted except cannabis, which is seen as therapeutic. "People can speak from the heart. They can help if they want to."

Heidi said she believed in "the heart, the spirit and morals," while Mark saw himself doing God's work of helping people, "though I don't go on about it."

They were set up in the grounds of the Uniting Church before being moved on, then they were in Peace Park before being shifted again, this time to the area of the Cootes estate known as "the gravel pit." They are determined to stay, they say, because they can see the need.

"People drop in at all times of the day or night, people who have nowhere to live, no base. The kettle's always on



and they can have company, a talk, tea, porridge. You feel vital again."

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clean and tidy, thanks to the efforts of Heidi and Mark and their helpers.

They recently had their van painted. "We asked if the local kids wanted to do a spray-paint piece on it, and Zac brought a team around the next day," said Heidi. "It says 'excellent two'."

Machinist wanted



Midwife Monika Boenigk is looking for someone who is competent with an industrial sewing machine, to provide BirthRite with padded pouches for the Floor Studio Birthing equipment (pictured) on an ongoing basis.

Monika said, "It would be disappointing to have to find people elsewhere, when the money could stay in the village, with all the wonderful crafty folks out there! Anyone can contact me on 6689-7490."

Medical Centre Notice

Dear People of Nimbin,

Firstly, we at the Nimbin Medical Centre would like to thank those of you who have been so understanding of our difficulties in providing access to our service. With further doctor losses to our community and our own family commitments, we have been limited in our quantity of appointments but hopefully have made up for it in the quality of our care.

Secondly, we would like to announce that, after a six month trial of our 'Day Only Access' system, we are reverting to a booked appointment system with a few amendments, to hopefully curb the up to 6 week waiting times you were previously experiencing.

Thirdly, and most importantly, we would like to welcome some new members to our practice. Most excitedly, Dr Mark Droulers will be joining us for **four days a week after Easter**. His experience in acute medicine will ensure your more sudden illnesses will be well treated. Furthermore we have two psychologists now working with us, James Alexander and Vanessa Miles-Taig. We are



extremely appreciative of their help, just as are the clients who have seen them thus far.

We see this all as the signs of continued positive progress in the provision of salubrious service available in this community. Thank you again for your patience.

Medical Centre Staff

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Nimbin Autumn Arts Extravaganza

By Margaret McLaren

This magnificent Art Exhibition showcased much of the best of the hidden Nimbin. Most mainstream media tend to demonise Nimbin and it feels good to show off some of Nimbin's best. The Autumn Arts Exhibition integrated the astonishing breadth and depth of our Arts Community with Performing Arts, Visual Arts and workshops to share the skills and creations of our village and its surrounding beauty.

The Exhibition was exceptionally well attended and everybody loved it. More than 7,000 visits were made to this show; many people kept coming back (often bringing friends and relatives) as there was so much to appreciate in our 100 year old village hall. Sales have been brisk with works leaving for local homes as well as interstate and overseas.

To take you on a short visit, we start in the foyer with Gerard's great 'Outdoor Head' and Adrian's amazing sarcophagus. The Sarcophagus has been carved from a black-butt tree with a history. This work-in-progress may come back annually until it is finished.

We move into the Hall and pause to say 'Ooh' and 'Aah', spying felt, furniture, glass, paintings, baskets and patchwork and noticing more to discover, hidden for the moment behind calico walls. There are fabulous wall-hangings and superb furniture. We see that Iain Harrison is back from his work in India with new influences from there. We weave through sculpture, engraved glass, installation and photography and find the detailed beauty of Franklin Johnson's work and Margie Rojo's inspired integrations of oils, wood and rust. Franklin and Irene are fairly new to Nimbin and



we all hope they are here permanently.

We arrive in front of the stage to enjoy the many and varied baskets and other woven pieces, then see the fountain that has been tinkling gently. Rounding the bend, we see paintings from abstract to political to portraits of landscape to musicians and more. Fantastic felt, huge carved rosewood doors carved Hebel and painted wooden wall assemblages bring us round the corner to cartoon-like Giclée prints and a host of angels in oil paint and ceramic! It is so hard to try to convey the feel of this Exhibition without writing a book or at least a short story!

Every day we heard and saw great performances from classical and contemporary piano to middle eastern music, belly dancers, poetry, blues, pan pipes, Celtic harp, singing (sometimes in Sanskrit). I, for one, was moved to tears and laughter.

The workshops were very well received though mostly not very well attended. Many people missed what they wanted to learn by a day or two, so another time we need more publicity. Burri had twenty people for his talk on an 'Indigenous Art Perspective' and his stories and insights were received with enthusiasm.

During the Exhibition, we saw painters and sculptors, with work on show, on stage performing wonderful music. During the preparation and

hanging, we saw painters, potters etc plying needle and thread to sew up the calico walls. We saw Tonia creating wondrous organic displays despite battling with her damaged wrist which came off worst in an encounter with the constabulary. Her masks and baskets are stunning and she was cutting up hand-made rope to lash leaves and stems to the pillars.

This Exhibition was organized by Nimbin Artists Gallery and all work by them, Exhibiting Artists, Performance Artists and many more community members was entirely voluntary. I thank the Gallery Group for working year round and pulling out the stops for this Exhibition. Groups like this quietly build social capital and strengthen our community by supporting art and artists, showing and selling their work



all year round.

Many new friendships were formed while we worked together and other connections were strengthened as problems were faced and overcome. Some of the work was very large, heavy and required careful handling. No transport? – No problem – help appeared every time and with a good heart.

Thank you all who contributed and all who helped visited and enjoyed the show. Well done Nimbin.



Wall Pieces: "a joy to make"



Established Nimbin artist Shirley Miller, who has works in the National Gallery and a number of state galleries and corporate collections, has taken an exciting new direction with her work. The new media are dramatic wall pieces, virtually painted timber collages.

The works represent a step into colour and abstraction, building on Shirley's previous work on paper with feathers, leaves and found objects,

which been highly successful and has been exhibited in Nimbin.

The new works have been exhibited recently for the first time in Nimbin and will be exhibited in Armistead's Gallery, Wyrallah Road, Lismore in August this year.

Speaking about her work Shirley said, "This work has been fun and a joy to make and I have been thrilled by the response. It's gratifying to be able to forge new directions and have

innovation appreciated by the both the artistic community and the discerning Nimbin community."

The new wall pieces will be on display at the Retro Café and Nimbin Hairdresser on Cullen Street from the beginning of May.

Shirley has many other fine works on display in her studio at 7 Neem Road, Jarlanbah and has a new website: www.artstudiomiller.com. She can be contacted on 6689 1793.

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Darkly, through glass

by Heather Kimber

This latest exhibition, 'Through the Glass Darkly' – an exploration of the changing meaning of images', officially opened at Blue Knob Hall Gallery on Friday 21st April to an audience of around 50 people. The evening was a great success with some of our Gallery members providing a mime performance entitled 'The Palimpsest' for the opening.

Suellen Howarth – winner of 'Best Actress' award from the recent '39 Hours' - played the artist, while Len Martin put on a sterling performance as the art critic. All eyes were on Miriam Ella who played the life model and Robin Moore and Heather Kimber hammed it up well as the two clients. This set the mood for a great evening, followed by a scrumptious feast from our new café operators Michelle McQuay and Julie Rennison.

The exhibition features a number of local and regional



Opening of Through the Glass Darkly

artists, whose work addresses the concept of 'through the glass darkly'. Of particular interest is Hayley Hillis' black and white photography, capturing the still points of contemplation in her portraits of 'Rebecca', 'The Melancholic' and 'The Belly Dancer'.

Shells Neville oil on canvas 'Red Sky, Red Earth' highlights her mastery of colour, while Angela Gill's (from the Australian Miniatures Society) quirky images entitled Moonlight Escapades I & II are delightfully fine detailed

exquisite, with elegant mysterious messages in cryptic symbols of tussah silk overlaid on fine white merino wool. Christine Wynyard's mixed media wall pieces are multi-layered works and her Lotus Land III depicts a dark hand holding a lotus flower – a symbol of the Buddhist concept of beauty arising out of the darkness.

Robin Moore's 'The Gilded Cage' acrylic on board is yet another piece by this accomplished artist who continues to extend herself

by exploring different media in different ways. The landscape is superimposed with four faceless figures, which are tied together by the word 'Conform' – a statement in which we see how society today serves as a cage, however gilded.

Polly Stirling's Shibori wrap is a stunning ethereal piece of work and includes a technique developed by Polly



Polly Stirling - Shibori wrap

etchings in miniature.

Helena Herendi's beautiful felt wall panels entitled 'Palimpsest I & II' are



Angela Gill - Moonlight Escapades I

called Nuno Felting. The technique incorporates the use of sheer woven fabric and wool and in this piece she has used shibori dyed silk net organza and wool.

Giclee is a relatively new process of which I know very little about, and so it is interesting to view Professor Robert Pope's giclee canvas entitled 'Gateway for the Creative Ethos' depicting Egyptian

philosophy merging into Celtic symbolism within a holographic reality, awaiting a rigorous interpretation through a Creative Physics science!

Giclee is a highly durable reproduction of artistic work onto a high grade canvas, and when the artist paints onto the giclee canvas to produce a one off work of art this is called an enhanced giclee. In American art galleries these works of art are considered to be original artworks. An authentication seal from the Science Art Research Centre of Australia appears on the back of the canvas.

Other works to view in this exhibition are mixed media by Margie Rojo, oil on canvas by Anthea Moffatt, oil on board by Claire L'Arrivee and Simone Rutley's felt and mixed media.

For more information on our programs, please contact the Gallery on 6689-7449.

Exhibitionists 2: Morphing into

This portrait exhibition at the Nimbin Regional (Rainbow) Gallery is a group showing of works by local artists Helen Rodriguez, Elspeth Jones, Simonetta Zigaldi and sculptor John Wright.

This is the second year that the group has shown work during the period of the Autumn Arts Exhibition, and this year the show will be "morphing" to include work by Rick's Designs and Vickiemaree Simpson in its final weeks. It closes on Sunday 14th May.

Helen Rodriguez produces intense, closely-observed portraits of local people who she knows well, and who she finds extraordinary in different ways.

Her smiling Liz Johnson (pictured far right) is a good example – born near the Glasshouse mountains, she has been a guest of Bundjalung country for 30 years, a teacher, an artist. "She is a friend and an inspiration," qualities abundantly evident in the work. "I hope to do collaborative work with her soon," said Helen.

Her portraits of local dancers in costume convey strength and dignity. Bobbin's portrait is titled "Ecstasy in Motion" simply because "dancing with Bobbin is the best natural high there is,"



while the over-the shoulder rendering of the veiled Poppy is given the name "Full Bloom."

Helen often works from photographs, including performance photos taken by Peter Hughes, scaling up by eye from the print to the canvas. "The image changes



from the photo even as it is being drawn, and you find yourself emphasising elements more or less to help express the character of the person," Helen explained.

This transformation can extend to changing the age of the subjects, as in Helen's unfinished work of "four of our beautiful local girls holding roses, from a photo I took of them in the Museum Café. They are our next generation, and as I painted them I was thinking of the strengths they bring to their roles as young adults."



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The times they are a-changing

by Helen Hope
PMAFA

The real truth of what is actually going on in our world today is quite hard for most people to decipher from the spin and subliminals and carefully delivered propaganda that propose to masquerade as such. Although many people do sense something very profound is going on on our planet, until now nowhere could the true understanding be found that human beings need to navigate their way successfully through these current times.

The basic truth, as revealed by the underlying astrological paradigm, is that individually and collectively we, Humanity, are in a kind of Judgement Day process. It began Christmas Eve 2005 and concludes around January 28, 2008. Many people, both here and overseas, have been asking me what is happening in order to find the balance needed in their lives. Once armed with this information they feel empowered, and ready to face the world with renewed strength and purpose. Hence this article, to bring the same to you.

Venus retrograding in early Aquarius December 2005 announced the beginning of this evolutionary phase, as she has done with other related vital events. (More on this later.) Coming just after the sacred solstice where the Sun enters Capricorn, the Sign of Judgement the omens are very strong. Venus retrograding back into Capricorn for an over 2 month stay confirms it. Alongside this Jupiter in Scorpio and Neptune in Aquarius formed an extraordinary square formation that did not conclude until the beginning of April. Another extraordinary factor which should be weighed in here is that evolutionary Pluto is for the first time now conjoined with the Galactic Centre, posited in Sagittarius.

Moreover, Jupiter and Pluto disposit each other, as they rule each others' Sign position. This means when one planet is set off, so is the other. Now all those people whom had very weird experience in the first three months of this year can begin to get a handle on the reasons why.

If the first quarter of 2006 has seemed beset by problems or difficulties, the reasons are twofold. Firstly, karmic imbalances are being redressed and secondly, one's power of choice, also known as free will, is being shown as fundamental to the world one creates. The more quickly one latches on to the latter, and begins to put this into practice, the more successfully one will pass the evolutionary cross roads at which we now stand.

The entire world is now in this position. No government or royal personage is outside of this process that has now begun. And it all comes down to the tool of choice. (The creative universe is expanding and evolving, and humans are supposed to pick up on the increased energy and do likewise. However, most people on the planet experience this as time speeding up and speeding by.) Putting it simply one chooses light or dark in one's thoughts and actions. The imbalance on our planet has become almost toxic, and the old ways of lying, manipulating or whatever do not work anymore. Those who persist in these ways will simply encounter ever-increasing suffering.

However, those who begin to inspect the quality of the energy being planted through their thoughts and actions, making those vital adjustments where necessary, will find another path entirely. Regular meditation is another primary tool in ensuring your growing advancement through these coming days. Combining these two practices will result in your developing a new mastery in manifesting your

reality, and you will be taking instruction from the universe itself.

Continuing to map the path ahead; Jupiter and Pluto disposit each other until November 24 2006, putting extraordinary evolutionary (like it or not) alchemy in the air. The daily astrology is very eventful, as you would expect, but the scope of this article will focus on the major milestones as signified by the planets.

The next of these begins June 11 2006 begins squaring Saturn in Leo, concluding around July 3. Remember that when Jupiter is activated by transit, so also is evolve or perish Pluto, so there will be an intensification of the Judgement Day process. Have your karma in good order, no outstanding bills or unresolved bad vibes, and have good history with meditation. (Even just making some attempt everyday puts you in an infinitely better place than not bothering.) Then you can move constructively, and even profitably, through this period, rather than being battered or bruised.

The next extra-intensified period is when Saturn from Leo begins to oppose Neptune in Aquarius on August 25 until September 9. Saturn the ruler of Capricorn and karma obviously plays a big part in these changing times, and this connection with Neptune will come and go a few more times. So learn well during this period. Regular meditation, wholesome thinking and living are what will prevent one from becoming disoriented and negative.

October 22 sees Jupiter and Saturn in square again until November 4. However, Saturn also forming a trine with Pluto from October 29, lasting until December 9 means those consciously working with their evolution and soul strengths will find quite amazing growth, developments and new mastery of being registering.

After a 12 year absence Jupiter joins Pluto in Sagittarius on November 25, marking another highly significant unfoldment of the Judgement Day process. Jupiter will now travel with Pluto right up to the important culminating dates of December 7 to 17 2007, before moving into Capricorn on December 19. (More on this later.)

Saturn from Leo begins opposing Neptune in Aquarius again from February 19 to March 10 2007. Draw on your prior experience of Saturn-Neptune to find your way safely through. Given that Jupiter begins trining Saturn March 12, one will almost immediately begin encountering the up vibe of easier success in manifesting and managing one's world. Jupiter trines Saturn until March 31, and again from April 27 to May 12 2007, helping one hone one's powers of organization and success.

Serious Saturn will for the final time oppose Neptune from June 16 to July 5. But this time cardinal Venus (further elucidation on the nature of Venus coming) will also be involved through conjuncting Saturn in Leo and opposing Neptune in Aquarius from June 28 to July 3 -making this a very potent time. As well as calling on all your prior Saturn-Neptune experience, also ensure your relationships and money situation are in good shape well beforehand.

Coming through this period sensibly and successfully means you will be able to draw on prior Saturn-Pluto experience to make even more of the trine between these planets from July 29 to August 18.

On September 2 2007 instructive Saturn will leave Leo after residing there since July 2005, and be in Virgo on September 3. This could signify a change in power structures, and probably certainly a change in the karma going around -each according to his lot. Be that as it may, Saturn changing Signs has a definite effect on

the vibration on our planet.

Mars moves into Cancer, the Sign of the human family, on September 29 2007. Much depends on the work people have been doing on themselves and lives, but Mars turning retrograde and remaining in Cancer until December 31 will intensify the powers unfolding.

December 7 to 17 Jupiter conjoins with Pluto in Sagittarius. This can mark a momentous time. Jupiter-Pluto magnifies what is happening, whether good or bad, both individually and collectively. Those whom have been walking the path of light can make even bigger breakthroughs now, as avatar Jupiter and nuclear Pluto conjoined can mark the time of some tremendous effort in life bearing fruit. However, those still stuck in negativity and base standards will strike the results of that coming back upon them more savagely.

And this is a very crucial time. So much depends on how many of the human family have made soul growth and grounded more vital light onto our planet. As the die is being cast as to the kind of world we are now entering. On December 19 Jupiter moves into Saturn's Sign, Capricorn. Saturn retrograding on this day, and the Destiny Point moving into Aquarius show just how the lines are being laid.

But the most fundamental factor to this Judgement Day process, and the doors that will be or not be opened comes down to Pluto, and the changing of Signs. The Sun travels the Zodiac in 12 months, whereas it takes Pluto over 260 years to do so. This is a momentous event, and resonates strongly in the human experience. When Pluto changes Signs it strongly demarks the areas affected by that Sign that need to be worked on or changed if Humanity is going to be able to stay in the race, survive and fulfil Humanity's higher purposes. When Pluto made the move into Scorpio 1982/83 we got AIDS, and since Pluto moved into Sagittarius religious wars

have begun to rage. The kind of world that is going to manifest under potent Pluto in Capricorn depends on how many members of the human family have become more soul-infused.

The importance of this time is also shown in its relation to the Great Cross of 1999. Nostradamus gives only two clear calendar dates for our future. One is the year 3797, when he terminates his prophecies. The other is August 11 1999, when the 'King of terror shall descend from the skies, to raise the Mongol-Lombard king once more, And war shall reign haply where once it did cease.' On this day a total solar eclipse formed a Grand Cross in the sky. Eclipses lay a depth charge in the heavens that other planets can set off when cardinal points are touched within the life of the eclipse. Which is as long in years and months as it is in time duration. At 2 minutes, 23 seconds there was more than enough time left when Venus opposed America's Moon placement, and set the whole horrific Grand Cross configuration off on September 11 2001. Venus is a cardinal planet, a mover and a shaker.

Interestingly, Venus and Pluto were the only planets not involved in the Grand Square Nostradamus wrote of. And when Venus retrograded on Christmas Eve 2005 it was in the place on the Grand Cross that Neptune occupied. Increased spirituality of being is our answer to the ills we face, both individually and collectively. Then Pluto will be able to bring the new world government based on the best interests of all mankind on the move into Capricorn. The Government founded on new social, legal, educational and religious concepts that Francis Sakoian saw arising from Pluto's advent into Capricorn. (The alternative doesn't bear thinking about.) Over to you (and me) to change the world through transforming yourself.

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