

# ASTROLOGICAL TRENDS FOR AUGUST 2007

## BIRTHDAY – LEO



by Bev Murray

These dramatic individuals possess creative flair and style! There is an eternal childlike quality about their approach to the world, which can be very infectious. On the other hand Leo can be tantrum throwing and attention stalking! They are loyal in relationships and make fun-loving parents! If they can avoid the temptation of power for power's sake they make excellent leaders! **Give them:** A big party. Anything that oozes style, bold and expensive jewellery or an adventure holiday!

**Leo:** Leos can expect to have more responsibilities than usual this month. Learn to delegate, as others are very willing to co-operate! For some an old romance will revisit and the feelings will be powerful. You might also be inclined to spend more than is necessary this month, but you are also quite lucky now so it will most likely even out in the end! The new moon in Leo on the 13th is all about socialising and entertaining!

**Virgo:** This is a particularly social month for you guys. Prepare to be very busy! Just be careful of what you say and to whom as arguments are also on the cards! Virgos looking for work this month could get lucky, especially those working in catering and service areas. Venus moves into you sign on the 9th, bringing with it a little romance, but do be careful of being blinded by the idea of love rather than the reality! The real thing might be quite ordinary after all.

**Libra:** This will prove to be quite a demanding month for Librans. However it is a good kind of demanding and although work and social life are very busy you will gain heaps from the process! Romance looks pretty good too. You do need to be aware that budgeting will be nigh on impossible though, so be prepared! Watch the 26th for arguments and don't believe everything you hear. Trust your hunches more! Others may not understand but it is the best way to go!

**Scorpio:** A puzzling month with many things going awry! Be careful with finances and do not spend without adequate forethought. Be particularly careful about lending money just now. Money issues certainly seem to improve after mid month but it is wise to remain careful. Meetings with unusual people in unusual circumstances could intrigue you and lift an otherwise irritating month! The 14th thorough to the 16th are especially likely times for this.

**Sagittarius:** You will have to take care of yourself this month as others are just not there for you! Take your time with things and allow the process to be enjoyable to avoid resentment! Loved ones need your love and attention and the rewards for giving it now will be considerable. Creativity is highly favoured. Do not try to cut corners early on in the month, the price you'll end up paying won't be worth it. The 24th is argumentative. Keep quiet if you can.

**Capricorn:** Your intuition is excellent during August. Getting things done or completed will be very hard so just give in and don't fight it! Allow yourself some off time and enjoy your relationships instead! Money should be treated carefully, look for sound investments rather than frittering it away. Work associates are not looking very co-operative and trying to organize anyone will just drive you both mad! The 9th and 10th are good on the domestic front.

**Aquarius:** Finances will definitely need your attention now, whatever you've been doing with your money in the past few weeks will come to ground now! If you need help, then ask for it! If you are open and honest then others will be very understanding of any mistakes you may make. Trying to hide the truth will get you nowhere. The 29th has Mercury and Uranus keeping you busy with unexpected communications of all kinds. This will be enjoyable.

**Pisces:** You guys need to go with your feelings this month. If it feels good then it is good and so forth! If you do this wholeheartedly then August will be a highly beneficial month. The important thing to remember is to be thorough in everything; cutting corners will cause troubles. At work it is best to approach most things by the rules. Those of you in accounting or travel will fare very nicely now. Venus and Neptune on the 26th suggest you be wary of lies.

**Aries:** While Mars is in Taurus for the first week of August the temptation to spend is high! Be careful or you will end up with a bad deal or two! Spend time on purchases rather than acting on impulse! Don't attempt to rush romance either, taking things uncharacteristically slowly will be your best tack now! Smelling the roses isn't really so bad, you know. Watch the motives of large groups as all is not likely to be as it seems.

**Taurus:** The temptation to overspend is strong! However this is a good month for financial gain too, so you can afford to indulge a little! Long term investments are looking good but off the cuff speculation is not advised now. The 1st of the month can be a little difficult as Mars in Taurus squares Saturn in Leo. Volatile energy between young and old can be testing! Keep a lid on emotional reactions if you can or all hell could break loose!

**Gemini:** Trying to get organised is a waste of your time in August! Muddling along will actually work quite well for you right now! Romance is great, especially if you can avoid over-talking everything! Let others do the talking for a change and surprise yourself with how satisfying this can be! When Mercury enters Leo on the 5th it presages a very creative and opportune period for you. Those in communications and entertainment will fare best.

**Cancer:** You will manage this month better than you have been managing the past few. Whatever you attempt to do will be done well and finances will improve. New friends are likely, entertaining will be very enjoyable and intimate relationships are possible for those who seek one. Catering and finance offer some great career opportunities for many of you too! The Full Moon on the 28th is sextile Pluto and promises to revisit a few old issues, but to a positive end.

Email Bev: [insightbevmurray@yahoo.com](mailto:insightbevmurray@yahoo.com)

# Numerology and the Nine Year Cycle

by Majika

The nine year numerology cycle influences your experiences and the energies you can expect to work with during the year.

In each personal year you are drawn to express the energy of that number, for example, you'll be dealing with commitments in a 6 year. A 7 year is a catalyst for the previous six years to bring about some fusion from previous lessons learnt. An 8 year is about Karma – good and bad repayment. A nine year finalises what you want to let go of, or take forward into your next nine year cycle.

To understand the nine year cycle is to ride the energy tides to improve your fortunes. Once we become aware of our cycles of change we can act more wisely in accordance with the divine plan of life. Each cycle gives you time to develop growth in the three vital areas of life: mind, body and spirit, with times of rest to assimilate the preceding lessons properly, in between.

So, how do we work out what is your 'personal year' this year?

You add your day and month digits to the year of your last birthday.

Say you were born on 21st April. You add  $2+1+4+2+0+0+7=16$ ,  $1+6=$  Personal Year 7. {That happens to be Queen Elizabeth II's birthday and month, so she is currently experiencing a year of consolidation without major progress.}

However, I was born on the 10th October, so I calculate  $10+10+2006=10$ ,  $1+0=1$  (because that was my last birthday, I am still under the 'one' energy until the 10th October 2007). Another example is 5th July:  $5+7+2007=21/3$ , therefore a personal year number 3.

The personal year cycles move in cycles from 1 to 9, then back to one, repeating as long as you are on Earth. Here's an outline of what you can expect under each numeric vibration.

### Personal Year 1:

A powerful year for adjustment to the dynamic changes over the previous 9 year cycle. Develop confidence, and allow yourself to become free to follow your convictions. Prepare to adapt yourself to an improved lifestyle and finances if your motives are genuine. You must now think in terms of how you relate to the outside world.

### Personal Year 2:

This not a year for major change, but if you cultivate your spiritual awareness you will have great success. Meditation will really help you to re evaluate yourself. This is a time to step back and take firm control of your emotions and reactions. Your sensitivity is heightened, so beware of emotional upsets and nervousness. Listen to your intuition.

### Personal Year 3:

This is the year for increased mental

activity and alertness. Your mental expansion might include academic or philosophy studies, as your intellect thirsts for knowledge. Travel can be helpful this year as you investigate life. You are attuned to a high level of mental awareness, remember to rest or nervous energy could make you critical and distracted.

### Personal Year 4:

This year, consolidate yourself physically. It's time to rest and recharge your body. This is not a year to make any lifestyle changes as it can lead to losses in either health or finances, or both. Only rest and relaxation will ensure your energy is not depleted.

Avoiding disharmony and taking a relaxing holiday would be beneficial, this year.

### Personal Year 5:

You will experience heightened awareness in spiritual and compassionate matters. Hence this is not a year for material progress, but of strengthened psychic abilities.

Your desire for freedom will be notably higher, so you may decide to move to the country. You can expect to develop your artistic talents with success this year.

### Personal Year 6:

Under the 6 influence your energy is directed towards the home and loved ones. It's a year of deep friendships and even marriage. It is a very creative year and you may form important business associations. When living positively, a year of beauty and creative achievements. If not, you may feel intense overanxiety about the home.

### Personal Year 7:

This is a year of learning through personal experience. Your understanding of life will improve in a 7 year. You may have to make sacrifices or suffer prompt karma. This is a chance to put into perspective your experiences of the past six years. It is not a good year to undertake any large business dealings or investments.

### Personal Year 8:

This year the energies rise from the consolidating trough of last year to growth and prosperity, as it approaches its peak, though it may not all manifest during the year.

Over the last four years, you have been prepared for the independence and the many new opportunities that appear under this vibration. Now is the time to live rather than exist.

### Personal Year 9:

This is very much a year of change. This important year is highly suited to travel and making new friends. It's also a year to finalise things that aren't working in your life. Time to repay old debts and extend forgiveness to your enemies. A strong sense of tolerance, improved understanding and kindness accompany the vibrant energy of a 9 year.

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# CONFESSIONS OF A DOPE THIEF

by Jim Morris

About ten years ago I went to a place where I knew there was a 12-foot dope plant growing. I sawed it off at the base and took off towards my parked van across a paddock patchily covered in clumpy patches of lantana.

It sounds simple, but it wasn't so. The entire trip was just that!

After parking in full view at a point on the road closest to the house, I'd made my way to the place where I knew the plant to be, finally slipping under a barbed wire fence to be within a few metres of it. I stood halfway up, slowly, and finally saw just in front of me, a majestic example of cannabis sativa.

Just then the confusion set in. What was I doing here? Was I really going to saw that plant off at the base and slip back unseen to the van? I can. What are people going to think about me after this becomes common knowledge? What else can I do? I need some money to help Francoise, and here it is.

But still I sat there thinking about all the ramifications, almost frozen from thinking too much, until I heard footsteps and saw that it was Xris, the guy who had bought my house off me when I was on the run from a maniac, for three pounds of pot. He had just returned from picking up his daughter from school, so all that time I had been sitting there on my haunches, no-one was home. I could have been walking around singing.

Then he came walking back out of the house, directly towards me. I was at the base of the plant, only withdrawn as much as I could into the bracken fern. I wished myself invisible and he walked right up to me to check if the plant was still there, having seen my van, and inspected the maturing heads. I could have reached out and touched him, but he didn't see me. Can you believe that? I couldn't. And then he walked away and disappeared downhill.

I just clicked into some pre-arranged process where I reached out and held the stem while sawing it off with the other hand. And there it was. To the van!

I was in a state of total panic and confusion by the time I arrived puffing, panting and shaking at the back door of the van. I had taken off up the driveway from the house instead of going back through the fence like any sensible dope thief would have done, and as I went out through the gate I just about bumped straight into a guy I vaguely knew walking down the hill towards me. I'd freaked out and taken off into the lantana with the large plant over my shoulder, diving into a tunnel to prevent the unadrenalised person from following me.

The van was locked, and I promptly dropped the keys into a patch of kikuyu

grass about two feet deep, and seemed to spend an awful long time looking for them.

Got them! Dope plant on the bed in the back of the van, engine on, wheels spinning out onto the bitumen. Head-spinning behind the wheel. Especially when that same guy appeared on the road in front of me, waving his arms. I knew he would have recognised me in an instant, but I still attempted to cover my face as I roared past his leaping body.

A few k's down the road I had steadied down a bit, but the huge plant filled the whole space in the back of the van, and could be clearly seen through all the windows. Ahead was a tiny turn-off that I had noticed before, so I drove into that driveway and parked around the first bend to stash the plant under the bed where it wasn't anywhere near as visible.

I should have just thrown it in the lantana to pick up at a later date, but that would have been rational. I was on another planet because I had taken two No-Doze and drank three large beers to get me crazy enough to do it. I mean, who goes stealing dope at 3.30 in the afternoon, especially in a place they know like the back of their hand?

Anyway, I reversed back out onto the main road and continued on my way home feeling a little more at ease, coming to terms with what I'd done, being fully aware that all of the trust and good reputation I had built up over almost ten years living in the area would be blown to smithereens. But what could I do? I needed money right now! I would have sold my body for dogmeat if I could have, but I couldn't.

The night before, I'd learnt that my wife had been involved in a collision and collected the brake lever of her motorbike into her forehead, and was unconscious in Denpasar hospital. She needed help, but I was a flat-broke uni student. I felt so useless, it played on me all night: where to get some money? Until gradually I kept coming back to what my brother had said to me when he visited my old house a few weeks before: "You should see the monster plant right outside the front door of your old place."

I knew the plant would be there because it wasn't the right time yet to harvest, which I knew because I had grown pot there myself. It was the old veggie garden.

There was no choice. I had to go and take the plant and sell it. The guy living in the house only swapped 3.5 pounds of grass for the place that took me two years to build, plus all the tools and tanks that went with it. I had been desperate for money at the time, and he hadn't paid rent for a year and there were signs that the timber house had almost been burnt down by candles a couple of times.

So thinking about the unpaid

rent and the deal the guy had got I figured it had to happen. He kind of owed me, in a stretched-out form of thinking. Main thing was, stupid me, once I'd decided that I just had to do it, I insisted on going there in broad daylight, as opposed to slipping in there at 2am. Taking or stealing, is there any difference? Seemed to me at the time there was. Fucking idiot!

So there I was, almost cruising down the road away from the scene of the crime, when suddenly a yellow Commodore arrived behind me with an obviously irate driver. Recognisably Xris, the guy who had been standing right in front of me ten minutes before, the guy who smokes so much dope he can hardly speak.

What an arsehole! How stupid was I being? If I hadn't stopped I would have been miles away. As if anything could be more futile, I planted my foot. I was in a 15-seater van and he was in a late model Commodore. Durr.

So as you may be imagining, we fanged across those north coast backroads like a minor convoy of maniacs. If the van wasn't on two wheels sometimes, I'd be amazed. I was out of it, panic-stricken, anxiety-ridden and freaked out. Apart from slamming on the brakes unexpectedly, putting the van's prominent tow-bar through his radiator, all I could do was respond to the adrenalin messages and keep trying to escape.

Trouble was, I was soon actually in the main street of Byron, and Xris was still on my tail - why was I not surprised? - without any idea of what to do. Like an idiot, I pulled into a parking spot and, instead of backing up to close off the second possible park, I went right up to the car in front, allowing him to park behind. I was tripping, I'd never been in any comparable situation in my entire life.

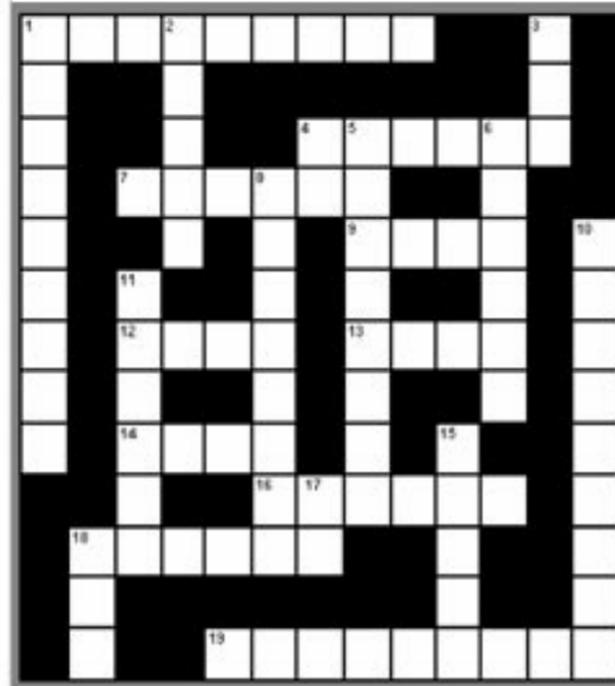
I jumped out of the car, locked the door, and ran off round the corner, down through a carpark and into a café where I sat down, panting and sweating, ordered and paid for a coffee, then slipped back into the main street to a spot in the pub where I could see his car. It was gone! Wow, I couldn't believe it.

I downed the beer and headed back to the van and drove myself home, but when I looked in the back of the van, the plant and my wife's expensive bed-cover were gone. I'd obviously left the van unlocked.

I sat stunned on the ground for a while, then I searched round in the back and found one small head, which must have been dislodged during the plant's guided tour of the north coast. I diced it up and smoked it with tobacco, thinking about what had happened, and how the hell I was going to get some money to help Francoise now.

## Nimbin Crossword

2007-06  
by Sycnic



### Across

1. How all life came about, and what we need in our mindset to avoid destroying it
4. Not a bong or a working girl, but a water pipe
7. Lager after spirits? Pursuer
9. Mongolian desert
12. A temporary calm? Give a false sense of security
13. Unfeeling
14. Indonesian holiday spot
16. Capital of the Bahamas
18. Big dipper? Tool for breaking earth
19. Some say this follows death

### Down

1. Unconventional person? Off centre!
2. Shape a piece of wood by rapidly rotating it
3. What's left in a 4 across when all the 18 down is gone
4. The man?
5. Types of food grown without chemicals
6. Standing, with hands on hips, and elbows out
8. Extremely hot
10. Energy sourced from ongoing natural processes
11. Worldwide
15. Where a painter rests their canvas
17. Exclamation of surprise?
18. Herb, or something you might grow herbs in?

Solution page 19

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# The Black Frost of 2007

by David McMinn

Every few decades we have a severe frost that turns all low lying areas black from burnt foliage, thus giving rise to the phrase 'black frost'. We recorded -4 °C at 8.30am around our house - so very cold. Even at 11am, well-shaded areas in the paddocks still had patches of frost.

Our garden looks like a fire has passed through it. Anything vaguely frost sensitive has black leaves, which are now in the process of dropping to the ground.

There were a few surprises like our Bamboo Palm, Litchi and Wampi, which came through with little or no damage. However, our Mangoes, Black Sapotes, Five Star Fruits, Jack Fruits and so forth are dropping their frazzled leaves and most will soon be leafless. We are hoping that the branches were not badly frosted and the trees will be able to recover quickly. Only time will tell.

We have been concentrating on growing tropical fruit trees in recent years and have now paid the price. Such catastrophic frosts occur every so many decades. The last comparable event happened during the 1980's. I cannot remember the year, but I can remember the event very well. It was the last time our water pipes froze solid.

People with gardens in low-lying areas along creeks are well aware of the frost problem and restrict most of their plantings to cold hardy species. Anything tender probably would have died years ago. However, people living in warmer, more elevated sites do not fully



**Devastation.** Dead plants at Nimbin's community gardens in the aftermath of the July frosts.

appreciate the problem. Their tender plants may grow well for many years, until another black frost turns their garden various shades of brown and black. Many plants will recover quickly by summer, but some will die from the effects of the freezing.

A further 30m higher up the hill behind the house and there is no damage. Lesson learnt - my tropicals will just have to be planted at a higher elevation from now on.

## Good Garden Design

It pays to be aware of the damage frost can inflict upon your garden. Most of the trees you select should be frost tolerant. These can give your more cold sensitive species some protection. Even so, there would be little prospect of avoiding extensive damage in the July frost, as the minimum temperature was so extreme.

We had several sensitive trees (Mangoes, Black Sapote and Lakoocha) growing under a canopy of palms and

frost hardy trees and none were injured by the cold. However, those same species sited in the exposed orchard were severely injured and it will take time to assess whether they will survive.

There goes our crop of tropical fruit this year.

It is important that you appreciate the microclimates in your garden. The worst situation is planting in stretches of open ground with no protection from the cold. (This describes our orchard perfectly.) Other bad frost prone sites are low-lying hollows or enclosed areas that allow cold air to collect. These will record the lowest temperatures during a frost and are only suitable for cold hardy plants.

The best areas for cold sensitive plants are under overhanging eaves of buildings and under tree branches. A warm north-facing brick wall absorbs heat during the day and radiates it at night, thus offering additional protection. Sloping ground that allows cold air to drain away freely is another good option for tender plants.

## More Tips

Moist soil holds and releases more heat than dry soil. Thus, keep the areas around your frost sensitive plants moist during the frost season. However, do not encourage new growth by fertilizing and over-watering, as new growth is far more

frost sensitive than fully ripened wood. The impact of the July frost was so dramatic because the soils were dry and the plants could not readily transpire water through the leaves.

If possible, water the foliage before sunrise to melt the ice on the leaves. This helps prevent leaf burn, which occurs when warm sunshine strikes the plant. (Our water pipes were frozen solid, so

this was not an option for us.) Our old bush Mango was had acute leaf burn on the sunny north side, while the shady south side was hardly affected.

Do not prune dead frosted branches until well after the frost season. Removing foliage early will stimulate new tender growth, which may be hit again by late season frosts. Wait until the new foliage sprouts in spring and then

remove only plant material that is obviously dead.

If you are buying a solar hot water system, pay the extra and get the brand with anti freeze in the panels. This copes with low temperatures much better and the pipes are unlikely to burst.

Look on the bright side. Statistically, we are unlikely to have another black frost for another decade or two. Here's hoping.

## Nimbin Garden Club Notes



### Severe Black Frost Damages Nimbin Gardens

Following a very mild start to winter in June, last month saw weeks of moderate to hard frost mornings culminate in a severe damaging black frost (-5°C).

On Thursday 19th, many Nimbin valley gardeners awoke to heart-breaking scenes of severe and possibly terminal damage to many valuable and treasured plants. Almost all tropical and sub-tropical species were affected. Severe frost burn appeared to kill the foliage of many plants and trees that had survived numerous 'normal' winters.

Many delicate-leaved and soft wooded perennials turned almost completely black overnight - a condition that, in many cases, continues to worsen as leaves, stems and trunks die back. Unfortunately, the prognosis for plant survival is not helped by the current dry spell. Gardening was never meant to be this hard, it's supposed to be fun!

While it is too early to assess the full extent of loss in many gardens, the damage will serve as a valuable learning experience for many. Gardeners will now have a good idea of what species can and can not survive such rare and extreme conditions.

On a brighter note, just think of what fun it will be to revise garden plans with new species to replace the fallen. At least the nurseries should be winners this spring.

Now if it would only rain.

The garden club AGM was well attended at Michael and Joy Smith's farm, at Koonorigan.

Photo: Ian MacDonald

### Club AGM

The recent club AGM has endorsed a management committee comprising Gil Schilling (President), Bruce Frank (Secretary), Ossie Osborne (Treasurer), with members Len and Kay Martin, Lindy Bentley, Caroline MacDonald and Vickie Williams to guide the club for the next 12 months.

With a recent influx of new members, the club is pleased to note that membership numbers are now approaching 50.

### Next Garden Club Meeting

The next meeting of the club will be held at Mac and Chris's place on Shipway Road on Saturday 18th August.

The meeting will begin at 2pm, and members are reminded to bring the usual plate, chair and mug. A relaxed social afternoon is planned and a trading table will be in place.

Members are also reminded that membership fees (single membership: \$10, couples: \$20) for 2007 are now due.

Further details about the club can be obtained by calling Gil on 6689-0581 or Caroline, 6689-1945.

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