

Child Protection

I wish to respond to points raised in the January edition of NGT by Lisa Beasley of the NCAHS Lismore in relation to the previous month's story. "DoCS baby snatch".

Ms Beasley defends the mandatory requirements that apply in line with NSW Interagency guidelines for child protection, yet there is so much concern about these requirements that an enquiry in Sydney headed by Justice Wood is currently examining them.

DoCS and the churches are responsible for hundreds of thousands of children being displaced, leaving people in despair, taking the young from caring parents and leaving the ones truly in need.

I was a month old when these so-called do-gooders turned my whole life into one of secrecy and deception. I am now 50, and still to this day because of paperwork being destroyed one way or another, I cannot find my natural origins.

A total clean-up of DoCS nazi attitude and actions is what is called for. Hopes are high that this will be central to Justice Wood's recommendations.

It's time that the war is over on our children. Nimbin is not the end of the road but the beginning of the rainbow.

Heidi Zekiel
Nimbin

Carbon and trees

Even David McMinn doesn't get it. Planting trees, even Flooded Gums, does **nothing** to reduce your carbon footprint.

All one is doing is **delaying** the release of the CO₂ absorbed by the growing tree until the tree dies and the wood decays.

Earth has for a couple of billion years produced excess CO₂. Amongst her long-term solutions is turning it into marble.

Lots of great reasons to plant trees but not as a reducer of global warming gases.

Carbon trading with trees as the offset is a scam.

Even McMinn is sucked in.
Dr. Paul Recher
Rosebank

Gratitude

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank everyone who has been involved in Tunttable Falls Early Childhood Centre over the past four years.

Thank you to all those who contributed in every way, shape or form.

To those on a professional level, the staff who worked at our Centre, those who liaised with us, who co-ordinated events with us, who lent us resources or books or who offered advice.

To those on a public level, who supported us through our fundraising events, your contributions helped us enormously!

To those who offered advice or suggestions both positive and negative, you helped us evaluate ourselves and work towards providing a better educational environment.

To our community for all the support and encouragement, there are many things we could not have done without you.



Who reads the GoodTimes?

Thanks to our hard-working team of distributors, the *Nimbin GoodTimes* is available through selected outlets in: Bangalow, Belongil, Bexhill, Bilambil, Bilinudgel, Blue Knob, Bray Park, Brunswick Heads, Burringbah, Byron Bay, Cawongla, Chillingham, Clunes, Crabbes Creek, Dunoon, Eltham, Ewingsdale, Federal, Fingal, Goolmangar, Goonellabah, Greenhills, Kyogle, Lismore, Main Arm, Modanville, Mooball, Mount Burrell, Mullumbimby, Murwillumbah, New Brighton, Nimbin, North Lismore, Ocean Shores, Rock Valley, Rosebank, South Lismore, South Golden Beach, Southern Cross Uni, Stokers Siding, The Channon, Tumbulgum, Tyalgum, Uki, Wadeville, and the offices of Lismore, Byron, Tweed and Kyogle Councils.

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Our print run currently stands at 10,000 copies per month. Look for our sign in shop windows. If you think of somewhere we've missed, let us know.

In addition, our pdf facsimile version is visited by over 2,000 people from around the world each month, at www.nimbingoodtimes.com

To our wonderful families, thank you for welcoming me into your lives, all the hard work on so many levels, the energy, devotion and dedication.

My apologies for my mistakes – thank you for your patience and forgiveness, for allowing me to grow and learn.

And to the beautiful children, thank you for your smiles, your inspiration, your love and laughter, and for

being my friend.

Teaching at Tunttable has been an amazing experience, and I know I am a better person for it. Thank you all.

Stehanie Witkowski
Retiring Director, Tunttable Falls Early Childhood Centre

Confused

I used to be a member of the Nimbin Players. I'm not sure if I still am.

Dr. Len Martin
Nimbin

Notices

Position Vacant

Tunttable Falls Early Childhood Centre – Teaching Director

Our beautiful community-based Preschool is looking for an experienced, qualified Teaching Director. We operate on school Terms Tues, Wed, Thurs. We're 10 mins from Nimbin, 25 mins from Lismore.

Please call Stephanie for details on (02) 6689-1179.

Qigong and Tai-Chi Network

A Qigong and Tai-Chi network has been formed for the north coast for all practitioners and teachers to meet close to Solstices and Equinoxes.

Our third qi-filled get-together for this year's spring Equinox at Ewingsdale Hall on 16th March from 1-3pm.

Be introduced to other people's style of practice and also find out about workshops, classes around the area and the World Tai-Chi day on the 25/26th of April with a big festival at Bangalow.

Check out: www.myspace.com/qifullnetwork. For more info ring Astrid 6622-4604 or Suzanne 6687-5636, mobile: 0434-230-042

Free - TA KE TI NA Lecture / Demonstration

"Rhythm for Evolution" with founder Reinhard Flatischler

Wed 5th March, 7.30pm at NRCAC, cnr Keen and Magellan Streets, Lismore

TaKeTiNa is a new way of learning rhythm, with founder Reinhard Flatischler composer, master percussionist (Austria) and co-leader Cornelia Flatischler (Austria).

The free lecture/demo will run for approximately 1.5 hours and include a multi-media element where Reinhard will demonstrate his work through images using his own custom composing software. All welcome, no bookings required.

This is a preview of the weekend workshop to be held in Bangalow on March 7-9 at the A&I Hall. Limited places are still available.

Enquiries contact Tania Bosak: Tania@bosak.com.au or visit: www.bosak.com.au or www.taketina.com

Rikuday Israeli Dance

Thursday 6pm – 7.30pm, Nimbin Community Centre

Beginners \$25 for five consecutive weeks.

Info: Liora 6624-4216

Free Listings

Send us a short Notice (under 50 words is good) and if it's non-commercial and looks like it would be of interest to our readers, we'll run it for you for free.

Errata

A few inaccuracies crept into in the February edition:

- Burri spoke generally about Goori spirituality, not specifically about Bunjalung people at the Buttherum gathering at Sphinx Rock Cafe (p. 14)

- Mick Martin is President of the Nimbin Demons AFL club, not James Alexander (p. 20)

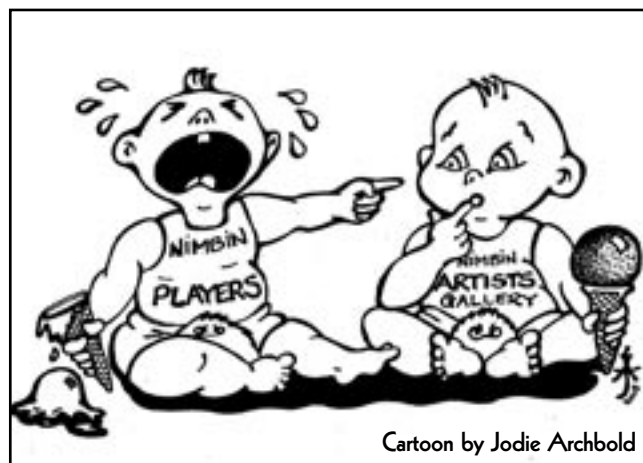
- It was Ben Taig sparring with Dion Wales, not Cameron Hatty (p. 19)

- Our new book-keeper is Deb Cattell, not Deb Catterell (p. 6)

Apologies to all. Must have been the gremlins.

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Lismore Council Jottings

The first formal Council meeting of the year started with a full gallery and plenty of lively debate. There was standing room only as residents from McLeans Ridges and prospective candidates for the September 13 Council elections (*note the change of date*) came to observe proceedings.

The early birds to Council meetings can pick up a copy of the Business Paper to assist in understanding the debate but the copies soon ran out, and those without could be excused for having trouble following the meeting. It is understandable that most observers only stay for the items that interest them, especially as the meeting went 'til 10.50 pm.

As usual, my Jottings only cover a small fraction of the proceedings so if you would like more detail, you can check out Council's website www.lismore.nsw.gov.au or contact me.

Dunoon

Cr David Tomlinson successfully proposed that Council hold an information session for Dunoon residents to examine the issues surrounding the Development Application for 56 lots in their village. Councillors will also visit a sewerage treatment plant similar to the one proposed for Dunoon to get a better understanding of how it operates.

Staff will prepare a report on the feasibility of Council requiring the preparation, at the developer's cost, of a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) by an independent consultant rather than one chosen by the developer as is the case now.

Council staff had not supported this part of the motion and had suggested that it assumed that both staff and Councillors 'are not mindful of the bias that can creep in'. My argument is that Councillors, staff and, most importantly our community, should not have to look for bias. A document that was independent could save both time and money for the developers and Council.

McLeans Ridges - Camerons Road

This was the hot topic of the night and the reason for the full gallery. The rezoning for 63 rural residential allotments on Camerons Rd attracted many hopeful community members but unfortunately they went away disappointed with the outcome. There is still great concern that there are too many blocks, they are too small to retain the rural amenity and the roads cannot take the extra traffic or driveways.

While I agree with the residents objections, my opposition to the report before Council stemmed from the SIA which was prepared by a Brisbane consultant and based on 2006 Census figures from the Richmond Hill Collection District (CD) which covers Richmond Hill, parts of Goonellabah and even some parts of Lismore Heights but only about 1/4 of McLeans Ridges.

The consultant also used figures from an urban measuring tool to suggest that a preschool is only warranted when the population reaches 4,000 people and a rural hall if it reaches 10,000. Using these benchmarks,

Nimbin would have neither!

While staff agreed that the SIA was 'fundamentally flawed' and Councillors Irwin, Tomlinson, Ekins and Swientek voted with me, my motion to defer the matter until better data was provided was lost and Council has placed the proposal on public exhibition for 28 days. The community have the opportunity to put their objections forward and I anticipate a huge number will come flooding in.



if you can't do that, please contact me and I will send you a form. It is fair to say that the budget for the coming year is very tight.

Council has agreed not to ask for a special increase in rates above CPI so we are facing a year of steady monitoring with no huge expenditure forecast, so readers to be realistic about the chance of many new spending initiatives being successful. The closing date is March 28.

Joint Venture with Rekindling

On a much happier note, Council decided to prepare a Joint Venture Agreement with Rekindling the Spirit, a local organisation that works with indigenous families on violence prevention and healing. Council will allow Rekindling to build a new centre on Council land in Goonellabah provided at no cost.

Cycleways

Council has adopted a \$4.4 m Cycleways strategy for the construction of linked cycleways throughout Goonellabah and Lismore. The proposed 07/08 program will commence shortly on Rotary Drive, sections of Orion St, High St and Uralba St.

While some Nimbin residents may be disappointed in the lack of cycleways in areas outside Lismore, it is hoped that bus travellers to Lismore, if they are able to do so, will, in the future, do their shopping and keep medical, sporting and social engagements on bicycles.

You can check out the plan at http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/content/uploads/AmendedReport_Nov07.pdf

Budget

March is budget submission time for Councillors, committees, staff and community. If NGT readers would like to propose something for consideration for the 2008/2009 Management Plan, download the one page submission form from Council's website but

Workshops/Meetings

At Chambers on most Tuesday nights at 6 pm, there is a variety of presentations to Councillors by staff or consultants on proposals for future works. Some of the weightier topics include the traffic management of the CBD and the preparation of a new Local Environmental Plan (LEP) that is required by March 2009. Already we have had two workshops on the progress towards a new LEP with more to come as we rename the zonings for sections of urban and rural land in accordance with State government requirements. As an example, Lismore will no longer have its idiosyncratic 2(f) and 3(f) zones for flood liable residential and commercial land.

Another of Council's recent workshops was a presentation on the **Bushland Burial** plan at our Goonellabah cemetery. The proposal is for 'green' burial in a bushland setting using cardboard or light wooden coffins with flat basalt markers instead of headstones. At a presentation to U3A last week, the plan met with widespread approval and has the potential to attract those who want a simple and natural alternative to the traditional burial or cremation.

Workshops and meetings coming up in March at Chambers in Oliver Ave, Goonellabah include:

March 4 – Workshops- Public Transport strategic plan, Water and waste water services, Asset Management

March 11 – ordinary Council meeting

(Agenda on www.lismore.nsw.gov.au on Wed March 5)

March 18 – Workshops- Lismore Park, Community Satisfaction survey results, Lismore Local Environmental Plan

Violence Against Women

Recently I learned that the Violence Against Women prevention program that has been working alongside other community programs in Nimbin and throughout the NR is to be axed. The decision by the state government to address this issue through a partnership between Police and Juvenile Justice, despite the good will and capacity of both these organisations, seems to change the focus from prevention to dealing with the problem once it has escalated.

I am also concerned that the capacity building that has resulted within Lismore and Nimbin from the VAW worker's coordination and support of other groups, will be lost because the centre of the new program will be in Newcastle.

If you or your organisation is concerned about these changes, I'd encourage you to write to the Premier, Community Services Minister and the Minister for Women.

Neighbour Day

Neighbour Day, Sunday March 30, is the day for all of us to make a conscious effort to reach out to our neighbours. There is no badge or fundraiser for Neighbour Day, just an opportunity to say hello to the person next door to ensure we stay connected to the people who live over the fence. If readers think ND is a good idea, you might like to consider taking an extra step – such as offering a helping hand or doing something neighbourly.

ND comes the day after Earth Hour where we are encouraged to turn off all non-essential electricity from 8-9 pm to demonstrate how everyone can make a reduce our energy use. To my mind, Earth Hour and ND go together beautifully. Just as every hour could be Earth Hour and every day could be Neighbour Day for some NGT readers, for other people, especially elderly folk who live alone, regular contact with another person may be very limited. It's then that we hear those awful stories about a person being found months or years after their death alone in their home.

Let's not let that ever happen here.

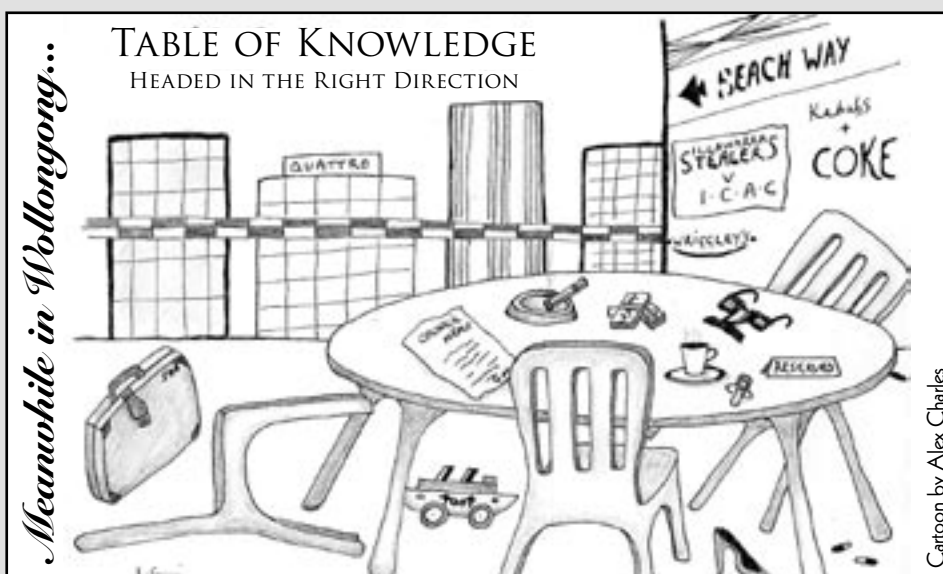
Stack of Chairs

We had a great meeting of the Stack of Chairs last month and are holding another on March 19, 5 pm at Caddies in Lismore. It was good to see Paul from Nimbin there and I hope other Chairs of committees or boards can join us next time when we talk about the common problem of 'Burn out'.

Elections

The Minister for Local Government will recommend to Parliament that Council elections will be moved forward by 2 weeks to September 13 to avoid school holidays.

Finally, the views expressed are mine and are not intended to be a reflection of the Council as a whole or of other individual Councillors.



Meanwhile in Wollongong...

Cartoon by Alex Charles

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No excuse for not volunteering

The big 'Help' sign is up this year for locals to join in and make MardiGrass 2008 as easy on the village as possible.

"As usual, we'll be relying on our regular Jungle Patrollers and those mysterious people who make their way to the MardiGrass meetings at the HEMP Embassy at 5pm on Friday afternoons," said HEMP Embassy President Michael Balderstone.

"This year we encourage absolutely everyone in the community to be involved and we are thrilled that the showground crew has joined in to help with the camping and parking, they will make a big difference. They will also be needing help with volunteers and local knowledge would be very useful in managing overseas backpackers."

MardiGrass visitors will be able to camp at the Showground site for the entire weekend and to make sure this all runs smoothly the A&I Society will need help with stuff like the set-up, parking and camping directions, some fencing, security, Jungle Patrol, or helping Neville and his team with the bacon and egg roll breakfasts they plan to make a speciality.

Hopes are high that the weekend will be a major fundraiser for the A&I Society. For further info phone Phillip on 6689-1583 or Neville on 6689-1173.



Jungle Patrol needs you

As with every year Jungle Patrol needs you, First Aid Training will be offered free and locals are encouraged to be leaders in this field.

Jungle Patrol operates from Friday 8am through to early Monday morning and people are urged to sign up for two four-hours shifts. Sign up at

the Hemp Embassy or for further info call Heidi on 6689-7589.

Another first for this year is a Float and Lantern

workshop to be co-ordinated by Graham

Dunstan, at the Showgrounds in the weeks leading up to MardiGrass.

Dates and details will be confirmed and advertised in next month's *GoodTimes* and on www.nimbinmardigrass.com.

Performers

Any performers wishing to get on a stage list need to contact the Hemp Embassy as soon as possible. The MardiGrass Market Stage and the Goori Stage in the Museum Black Yard still may have some spots available.



Float competition

Happy High Herbs is sponsoring a competition for the best float in this year's MardiGrass Parade.

For insurance purposes:

- **Height**
Floats must not exceed 3.2 metres from "the road".
- **Width**
Must not exceed 2.4 metres wide.
- **Length**
Should not exceed 4.2 metres long, however this is a bit flexible.

Floats must be peopled or green powered – no combustion engines accepted.

To qualify as a float for judging purposes, the presentation must be on some kind of wheels, be it a skateboard, wheelbarrow or larger platform.

Floats may feature a single person or group.

A float may be a centrepiece of a larger on-foot display.

We encourage floats to surround themselves with their music of choice – live "yum yum" or amped.

Float spacing to allow crowd enjoyment and assimilation of each floats look, sound and message is our aim.

These floats are our opportunity to present a powerful message to the out side world of both celebration and/or protest.

Your float can express whatever you feel or want to share.

We need floats and displays that reflect our

area, our people, our pride and desires for the future, our fun and festivity.

Drug Law Reform is a major focus of this festival and we encourage all to have their say.

Judging

Judges will remain unknown until the day of the event. They will be women and men, and mostly not part of the Happy High Herb shop.

A 1-10 point score method will be adopted.

1. Judged pre-parade whilst assembling:

Use of recycled materials, Originality, Punctuality

2. Judged during Parade:

Function (Locomotion), Costumes, Music – Live or Amped, Message power, Overall effect, Crowd response

Prizes

\$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500 will be presented to nominated heads of winning floats in Peace Park after the Rally.

For more info, contact Elizabeth on 6679-7052

\$420 prizes for videos

This year for the first time, a video competition is being held in conjunction with the Nimbin MardiGrass and Cannabis Law Reform Rally.

Three winners will receive \$420 each. One video will be selected from each of three categories:

Big Joint Parade

Capture the colour and atmosphere of the Nimbin MardiGrass Parade as it moves from the police station to the Cannabis Law Reform Rally at Peace Park.

Hemp Olympix

Bong Throw and Yell, Iron-Person, Joint Rolling. Include all or some of the Hemp Olympix events at Peace Park and the Town Hall over both days.

Musical MardiGrass

Vision of some of the many musicians performing during Nimbin MardiGrass. The sound quality is important and the permission of the artist is essential. Video with a pro-cannabis message is likely to be the winner of this category.

Conditions of Entry

Entries close at 4:20pm, Friday 16th May, 2008

All videos must be from this 2008 MardiGrass and have a 420 display element included in the video. Video must be less than 10 minutes. Content subject to copyright must have the approval of the people/parties concerned.

The submitted video may be used for other purposes at the discretion of the event coordinators. Only videos depicting the positive aspects of Nimbin and Cannabis Law Reform will be scrutinised by the judging panel. More than one video can be submitted from each entrant.

Please supply a copy of your video in the best possible quality in any video format. Video will be retained by the Nimbin HEMP Embassy permanently. Judges decision is final, no whingers!

Good Luck.

Winners will be announced at 4:20pm Sunday 18th May 2008 at the Nimbin Market and online at nimbinmardigrass.com

All winners and selected video will be placed on www.YouTube.com/NIMBINTELEVISION

The 420 Video Competition is sponsored by the Nimbin H*E*M*P* Bar, perennial supporters of Cannabis Law Reform and the Nimbin MardiGrass.



Aquarius is more about the culture than the festival

It is historic fact that the north coast region of New South Wales has changed dramatically from 1973, the year of the Nimbin Aquarius Festival.

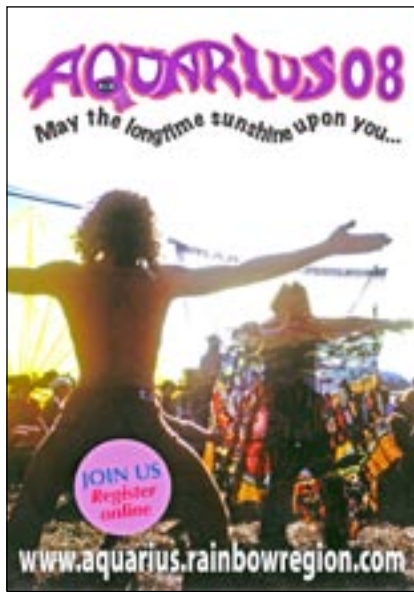
From a retreating population, with declining traditional timber and dairy industries, the Rainbow Region has emerged into a high growth multi-cultural community, renowned for positive social and environmental values.

Nimbin changed that year from a ghost town to a thriving village, known around the world as the capital of "Alternative Australia". From shuttered windows to colourful facades, Nimbin's transformation reflects the community values that have thrived here. Freedom of thought and positive peaceful action are at the heart of social standards. Arts in all forms are growth industries for the Region, from traditional to technological, learning, healing and ecologically friendly lifestyle management.

The Nimbin Aquarius Foundation is planning a series of events, in both Lismore and Nimbin from late April until May 21st, to celebrate and promote the social values that the Aquarius culture has brought to the Rainbow Region.

"We are not looking backwards and dissolving into nostalgia. A potent culture has evolved in this region over the past 35 years that gives us cause to celebrate," said Paul Joseph, president of the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation.

"Our focus on community and



sustainable values is the greatest gift we can offer our children – and the planet. This region has led Australia in Indigenous relations, co-operative community development and environmental protection. We have promoted health and lifestyle practices that have become mainstream and our local economy benefits from earth repair industries such as alternative energy, permaculture education and carbon trading."

Nathan Koenig and Shelli Lipton, founders of the Woodstock Museum, will present a festival of films about the roots of hippie culture in the USA. They will also screen a film they made

on their last visit here 5 years ago, called "Woodstock Downunder".

Artworks wanted

Lismore Regional Gallery will stage an exhibition called, "Aquarius 08 – May the long time sun shine upon you", from April 26 until May 20.

"The Aquarius 08 exhibition is a chance to share the Aquarius story with our local community, and explain both our history and visions for creating a kinder world," said Paul.

"We will display art and artefacts, and also utilise video and presentations that reveal the depth of our social values. Our great successes need to be exposed and shared with the world to encourage hope."

Nimbin's Sister Village, Woodstock, USA will host the exhibition in Woodstock later this year.

The Nimbin Aquarius Foundation is calling for submissions of artwork and personal stories to include in the exhibition and online on the website, www.aquarius.rainbowregion.com

All art is welcome, visual, audio, literature, video or 3D. Go to the website, register as a member and you will be able to upload your art and stories. For any further info, phone 0401-275-099 or email aquarius@rainbowregion.com

"The Aquarius 08 events provide an opportunity to evaluate our history so we can confidently plan for a positive future for our community," said Paul.

Commonsense Human Values

Eleventh in a series by Laurie Stubbs



Let's think briefly how to turn the ideas of the last three articles into an action plan.

Projecting a future from the known is easy.

From the unknown it is quite another matter. If we don't know how to do something anyway, and we don't know what are the skills we want to practise, planning for them sounds like pure guesswork.

There are possibilities however; this is no blank wall. On the frontier of learning/teaching are a very few people using a common sense approach. "Let us", they say, "find a person who does a particular thing very well; we go talk with them and find out how they do it so well: then we can teach others that way." The idea really works. It calls for acute perception, a willingness to throw out the rule book, and demands trial and error plus care. But it works well.

One of the side issues that comes up again and again is that people who do a thing particularly well have developed ability to concentrate. There is a

technique to allow all one's personal force to focus on the task. "Shifting gears" in the brain involves centering, grounding, belief, and desire to focus, a desire to get the result. These are right brain activities, which mobilise and control the left brain for the task. The left brain/right brain team-up is significant of itself, because it is clear that involving the right hemisphere strengthens the total power available to do a particular thing.

As a side issue, ponder the effectiveness of a concentration technique which teaches a person to read 20,000 words a minute. And then pass tests calling for knowledge of the material read. I have been through the process and can vouch for its effectiveness. For a number of participants there was an emotional change of balance at the same time as the new skill was integrated

With this insight, we can see how to plan for the unknown. We'd need to find, say, people who use telepathy and study what they do. With the outcome we may be able to teach it. We do the same with psychokinesis, with out-of-body experiences, with perception of auras, with dowsing, contact with spirits, teleportation. This way we can tackle the whole bag of those abilities which have been ignored by the developed world.

It will take time and effort to make all this happen. Once basic capacities are resurrected individual techniques will create a cross fertilisation of one by another. From this will come a broader and more useable understanding of many of the denied abilities.

However, since all this is happening inside a poorly understood human organ, the answers are best sought by doing. "You want to learn to levitate? Then do it!"

Though this is an extension of Mao Tse Tung's famous leap into technology, Learn by Doing, it is surprisingly sound advice. Yes, you make many 'mistakes', but they are learning experiences, they are not mistakes

Let's be very clear however; unless you have human capacities understood, you can't set values which relate to them. From the platform of our present level of knowledge guessing at where the brains potential could lead gives us only the possibility of the inspired guess.

We need to see it is desirable to un-mystify, and define processes that have been denied. We must set about integrating what we find with the rest of what we know.

Above all we need to change the conditioning society now uses, so that vastly more flexibility and willingness is generated to consider the possible and the new.

The Nimbin Financial Times

Credit Default What?

by David McMinn

Seasonality & US Panics

Most of you would have read about the sub-prime crisis in the USA over the past year. The US financial system is working its way through this mess. However, it is the first of three or four perfect storms looming on the horizon. After the sub-prime problems, the US banks have not set much aside to deal with the recession in consumer credit card and auto loans. Then there is the coming wave of corporate loan defaults and the collapse of the US commercial real estate sector.

Most scary of all is the possibility of a crisis in Credit Default Swaps

(CDS). This market

is unregulated and totals over US\$45 trillion or twice the size of the New York Stock Exchange. It is beginning to become wobbly, presenting a potentially very serious situation.

What is a credit Swap? This is a contract when two parties trade the credit risk of a third entity. Many of the gamblers in CDS do not even know who

is on the other side of their deals and whether that party has the ability to pay in case of a default. The whole system is a bubble that could easily implode.

The US powers that be will do what they have always done over the past three decades in times of crisis - flood the system with money. So much money has been created over the past year that there is a serious risk of rampant inflation. Is this crisis the 'big one' when nothing the central banks can do will avert a systemic breakdown in the world financial system? This remains to be seen, but more dangers lie ahead.

In a rising market, speculators and bankers extol the virtues of unfettered free markets. With a market collapse, those same people become socialists wanting interest rate cuts and government support to offset their own stupidity.

Isn't American capitalism wonderful?

Curiously, US financial panics tend to occur in the same season for about three decades and then nothing for extended periods. This has been a consistent feature of market activity since the inception of the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) in 1896.

The accompanying table gives the summary of this finding for annual one day (AOD) falls over -4.50%. There was only one exception to this trend, with the AOD fall of July 19, 2002. (NB: The AOD fall is the biggest % one day decline in the index in the year commencing March 1.)

AOD Falls => 4.50% 1896-2007	Number of Panic Events	Time Spans
May 11 - Jun 30	04	1930 - 1962
Jul 01 - Aug 20	06	1914 - 1934 (also 2002)
Aug 21 - Oct 31	05	1929 - 1955; 1986 - 2001
Nov 01 - March 20	07	1896 - 1928

The only period, when this approach does not work, lies between March 21 and May 10. Major AOD falls happened during this time frame in 1901, 1915, 1938, 1988 and 2000, which gave no cyclical pattern.

Why such seasonality arises remains unknown, but it obviously has something to do with the solar year and the Sun being sited in the zodiac. Presumably it has to do with Moon Sun tidal effects, as covered in www.davidmcminn.com.

Curiously, the recent panic of January 21, 2008 was that it happened during the northern hemisphere winter. This had not occurred previously since 1928, some 79 years earlier.

This recent event probably marks the beginning of a period when summer panics will become more common. A year earlier the 'Shanghai Surprise' occurred on February 24, 2007 when the Chinese market collapsed by 9%.

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