

# LOOK TO THE STARS

YOUR YEARLY REVIEW OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS

BY BEV MURRAY

Those open to change and transformation will enjoy the expansive energy of January 2009 which ushers us into a new year full of relationship re-adjustments, new social connections and timely shifts in our personal journeys! The first important Astrological event in the month of January is Jupiter entering the sign of Aquarius, on the 5th. Jupiter will remain in Aquarius until January 17, 2010, bolstering the importance of individuality, self belief and self-reliance. It can also bring a surge of new gadgetry and other technological innovations. On the 12th the Full Moon in Cancer brings a celebration of loving emotional ties, of family and feelings of homeliness as well as a greater ability to be comfortable with other people. Emotional sensitivities are intensified and receptivity to one another is at a peak. However Mercury also shifts into retrograde on this date bringing with it attendant changes of plans, confusing communications and technological breakdowns. The latter portion of January is filled with the unexpected and a need for patience. It can seem as if things are going slower than they actually are!



## Aries:

You guys are on the brink of many changes this year, particularly ones involving your goals and outlook on life. Pluto in Capricorn affects you quite strongly and this will bring you into contact with issues, people and ideas from the past and revisiting these will dramatically alter your course. October and November may be difficult months for you, where others may not be all that they seem.

Meditation: Cutting ties.

Visualisation: Success

## Taurus:

Making rational choices can be difficult this year as you seem confused about a lot of things! Saturn has quite a profound effect upon your solar chart in late January and early June bringing a desire to achieve more and some unexpected surprises from unusual places. Relationships can be difficult and need some sorting out this year and emotional health might suffer. It's important to look after yourself no matter what is happening for you!

Meditation: Relaxation.

Visualisation: Happiness.

## Gemini:

A smoother year than 2008 with some gentle changes that will benefit you tremendously! Finances look good and a golden job opportunity looks prominent mid-year. Neptune in Aquarius increases your creativity and a nice connection between Neptune and Mars in March suggests travel. Late May brings even more opportunity for enjoyment and perhaps love! It's a fortunate year all round!

Meditation: Thankfulness.

Visualisation: Compassion.

## Cancer:

There are changes afoot in the relationship arena. These will be of benefit and offer more stability in the long run. Mars and Uranus energy in late January begins the push to let go of outworn ideas and projects. There may be some big expenses in early 2009 but the situation improves dramatically as the year unfolds. After August the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel becomes very visible! Hang in there till then!

Meditation: Focus.

Visualisation: Love.

## Leo:

This is the year to look after your health and get a good regime going in your everyday life. Saturn opposing Uranus can bring some intense energy your way too. It asks you to work harder and smarter! Late February requires a rethink of financial issues.

Big successes in your career arena are to be expected after June. The first six months of the year can produce some obstacles though. Not good for investments!

Meditation: Mindfulness.

Visualisation: The Big picture.

## Virgo:

Transformation is the name of it all this year. It's a gentle process for you guys though and one that will keep you feeling optimistic. Money can go as quickly as it arrives but this has little impact overall. Mid February sees Mars and Jupiter in nice aspect, encouraging some professional and financial growth. Any little tensions are easily dealt with.

Meditation: Peace

Visualisation: Completion

## Libra:

Substantial changes seem finally to be a necessity for Librans. Late April in particular is a time when the living conditions and situation for many of you undergo quite some shifting. With Jupiter in Aquarius in late May there is a lot to be happy about! Lucky breaks are likely and others will respond to you with the best of intentions! You and a partner may also find time to share more activities together. Children may be confusing though!

Meditation: staying in your centre.

Visualisation: Joy.

## Scorpio:

You begin the year ready to make the small changes that have been nudging you in the recent past. Small changes to your living situation are also likely. With Saturn and Uranus in opposition you can find that those close to you are somewhat capricious all year. The trick in 2009 is a more orderly approach to long term goals and plans. Be prepared to help friends when they ask you, because this is a year when they will need your support.

Meditation: Embracing change.

Visualisation: Organisation.

## Sagittarius:

Pluto's shift into Capricorn brings some financial changes for the better for you. Children are costly in late April though, so best to be prepared! Late March is excellent for helpful contacts and job hunting! Siblings are prominent in your chart this year so expect some activity here. Lots of short trips are also indicated. Enjoy this light heartedness and don't let anxiety about little issues get in the way of your fun!

Meditation: Letting go.

Visualisation: The simple things.

## Capricorn:

Pluto now in your sign can bring about some major transformations this year. You may find that you are required to do more public speaking or some other activity that challenges your comfort zone. New skills are going to be learnt this year too. Some domestic troubles can arrive around April. Others will need you to be strong and centred. Younger individuals have a lot to teach you this year as well.

Meditation: Change.

Visualisation: Listening to others.

## Aquarius:

You can feel really restless this year. Issues and folk from the past can re-emerge and some attention. April is a difficult month with the possibility of a long lost friend or relative returning and a not so pleasant reaction on your part! You may take on the role of carer and feel the need to nurture others, just be careful to maintain your personal boundaries. Investments should give good returns in 2009.

Meditation: Self-healing.

Visualisation: Resolutions.

## Pisces:

This year requires you to set reasonable and attainable boundaries in your relationships. Health needs to be attended to by good habit forming and healthy eating. Mid year sees an increase in your personal creativity and others may call on your talents in this direction. It's a good year to focus on achieving your goals and moving forward financially. Promotions are highly likely.

Meditation: health.

Visualisation: Achievement.

# Gnosticism

by auld Doug Ogilvie

[www.alphernet.com.au/dogilvie](http://www.alphernet.com.au/dogilvie)

Gnosticism is a system of beliefs that emerged, incompletely, at the start of the Pisces Period, as part of a fusion of Greek, Egyptian and Semitic thought around the eastern Mediterranean.

Gnosis-seekers believe that it was a revival of this radical ideology that motivated the new-age movement of the sixties and will characterise the coming Aquarian Age globally for millennia. The movement's roots are traceable back to paganism, including wicca and the mystery religions of the ancient world. Its history is traceable through aspects of taoism, yoga, sufism, the knights templar, the reformation diggers, freemasonry and the da Vinci code, and it forms a common thread through deep ecology, goddess worship, the raelians and pantheism today.

The main idea is "gnosis" which equates with enlightenment, illumination, spiritual birth and/or union with the Divine as used in other lexicons. This world is believed to be a prep. school for the next, on earth, for learners to prove, before they die, their fitness for further survival by passing, by means of a change in consciousness, the relevant graduation test; which entails an apocalyptic revelation of the Truth for some and their doomsday for the rest.

Gnostics are religious anarchists. We believe in

God and/or Heaven but not in any man-made authority, such as a prophet, priest or caesar, although anybody can enact the, emergent, leader role, temporarily. God and Heaven are synonyms for the contextual, ubiquitous and cyclical Whole of whom we are organic parts. This is a living, superhuman, but not supernatural, being who periodically becomes self-consciously alive, in partnership with self-conscious constituents.

Being accommodating, more than travelling, She is of feminine gender in relationship with Man, and contains clone-like copies whom She has created of parts of herself, such as our solar system, whom some ancient Hebrews called an elohim; or female god.

God has one law only; the golden rule of good, god-like, relations- "treat others convivially as, autonomous, extensions of yourself"; the violation of which is evidence of the violator's "sin" of hypocritical self-righteousness. Monogamy, adultery, homosexuality, birth control, meat eating, wine bibbing, euthanasia, pot smoking et al, are matters of free, informed, adult choice; in her domain. Because of this, our adversaries have always included the agents of lord-god religions and the caesars of secular states, and their hirelings. But, as foreseen by good-sighted seers, our day has come and theirs is to be done, in a global holocaust; within a decade from today. Aum!



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# Commonsense human values

Part 21 in a series  
by Laurie Stubbs



This is the second group of values based on the principle Life Develops Itself (LDI).

The last two articles set out values that help us to relate to life and our planet. Now we look at ourselves, and values that steer how we live as individuals. Next article, we will extend LDI based values to the family and groups.

This new value set demands careful appraisal because it deals with life on a vastly overpopulated planet, one where there are "haves" "have nots" and massive tensions. It is extensive --- far more so than the "Ten Commandments" --- but today's are very different conditions to those of Moses time.

We must act to eliminate species threatening issues and problems and this means different individual and collective values. If values we use now are creating disasters - whereas this value set looks as though it goes in the right direction, - then give it a careful once-over.

This group of values is about Ourselves

• **Human capacities are unlimited.**

We dealt with this in Article 10.

Such a huge potential exists in human capacities, beyond what has been accepted up till now, that for practical purposes limits can be ignored. That's symbolic, not literal.

• **Change is the only stable truth of life; be prepared to be the agent of change, and to change yourself.**

• **Change focuses through near mature children and young adults.**

LDI tells us change is at the root of life. We should recognise this truth in how we live. Attempts to deny change use energy that can have a better result if put to steering change rather than resisting it. We must make change possible against a background where it is expected and we are prepared to allow it if it looks right. The connection with the LDI principle is: its common sense for people's outlooks to be in harmony with, rather than against, the flow of life. The old, the elders, the seniors of the society or tribe have no pipeline to truth. What they say can be merely tradition speaking. Older people must be aware of (and more than that, looking for), what could be positive ideas for change among the young. Authority and insight that comes to age is often flawed by rigid mental habits. Life is flexible in taking advantage of whatever offers itself; humans must be the same.

• **Thought underlies everything; many things we now cannot think about will become clear to us in time.**

As more knowledge brings us to higher plateaus of understanding the potential for more accurate questions, and refinement of systematic knowledge will lead along the road to ultimate clarity. How many generations this might take is guesswork. Because the pattern

is that life develops itself, eventual understanding is assured. So let's not waste effort looking for answers that will reveal themselves as we develop. Article 10 dealt with more of the same ideas. Noam Chomsky, in "Language and Problems of Knowledge" says:

"In particular areas, such as the study of language and vision there has been substantial progress, and more is sure to come. But many questions lie beyond our intellectual grasp for the present, and perhaps for ever."

• **Initiate discussions of your ideas -- and accept others ideas.**

• **Several ideas can coexist: one 'right' way is a very rare case.**

These two have a more tenuous connection with the LDI principle. Life has shown a capacity for wide diversity: common sense suggests humanity do the same. One of the seemingly 'built in' qualities of people is a capacity to take diverse input, but come to similar conclusions. A pointer to this capacity is that content of mythologies is much the same worldwide. We naturally to take account of what other people think. Focus on "ultimate questions" and scientific method has supported this trend. Life doesn't care what raw material it uses. The Thylacine and the dog fill the same food niche, but one is a marsupial, the other a mammal. We should be similarly broad-minded.

• **Life develops itself; learning this pattern can help it happen. Humanity's best interest may be to do this.**

This is a central part of this statement of values.

• **Learning is by listening, by doing, and by thinking: but, always, there may be a new way.**

• **Help children to learn in the directions they want to go.**

Balance is needed between guiding /developing what is innate in kids, and controlling them so they learn to live in their society. Since this set of values will act at many levels on the society, attitudes of both the children and the adults will change toward making life an interesting, satisfying and highly enjoyable experience. In this framework the role of children's learning must become a focus for useful change. Potential change can be and should be explored.

• **Respect your parents, and support them when they are no longer able to do so.**

• **Work to support your community, area, state, nation.**

The earlier injunction to "Respect all living things" could extend to the first of these. Western attitudes to age take no account of the benefits age can offer. We need to return to the wholeness of living with the aged. Our youth-centric culture takes the aged out of the mainstream of life and leaves them to wither and die separately. Western culture is creating a problem with this. Other cultures keep the aged busy with young children, with community and family interests.

This value is aimed at keeping the love, wisdom and balance of age available to children as it would be in natural selection's 'plans'.

Supporting parents, and working for the community are part of a more natural society and are restated here as a direct change from present western practice. Family is vital to humanity: community is an essential part of the family's scene. Inter-personal, and inter-group links are a feature of all societies. Without such links and the input implied by them, humanity cannot handle all the possible collective actions that are so much to the advantage of the individual.

• **Treat others as you would have them treat you.**

Though one of the 'old' values the way it connects to natural selection explains why the concept is so often not used. It is one of two (at least) conflicting options built into human genes. One option is "do good for others, and hope for good from them", and on the other hand "ruthlessly pursue your own self interest". Males probably are more prone to choose the second option and females the first. Either is good behaviour from natural selection's "view" - and for either sex. Choice between the two is usually triggered, in a natural setting, by society's norms.

LDI values make a permanent choice for co-operation. The effect of such a choice may reduce the acceptability of the macho male image, and push all individuals toward understanding of and support for others, rather than rigid pursuit of their own agenda. Mankind's capacity for compassion, sympathy and so on, were intended to be used by nature's design. That these qualities are at odds with a self interest quality - which seems to be from an earlier age - is nothing new. Life is simply developing itself.

Some may argue against a reduction of competition flowing from lesser emphasis on "ruthless self interest".

Since technological progress is a fundamental building block of western society, and since such progress will inevitably go on, the argument against less competition needs some thought. Natural selection and the genes are about species survival and development; they are not about technical development. Hence the argument would be that less competition at the level of species survival behaviour would in the long run affect technological thinking. That sounds tenuous. Lets look at different human qualities for a clearer view. Curiosity, and the capacity for logical thought would seem to be the critical qualities leading to enquiry. Persistence most likely is the next quality which would contribute to results, and finally perhaps personal force or drive. All of these seem to have a direct bearing on technological progress. The probability is then, that there would be a positive spin off from increased cooperation between technologists.

## Nimbin Crossword

2009-01

by 5ynic



**Across**

1. Loss of trees due to logging and clearing
7. Sweet food from 6 down
10. Give milk
11. (Dine) in the open air
12. Stick? Hold in place
15. Yes
16. Nimbin's where it's \_\_\_.
17. Cereal? Pattern in wood
19. Strong black coffee
22. (Very slightly) more environmentally friendly fuel for cars
23. Happening
24. (7,6) Caused by Carbon and other emissions - may yet make Nimbin coastal

**Down**

2. Same (quantity)? Fair (treatment)
3. Different from the one mentioned

4. Movie star Elizabeth \_\_\_.
5. Overcoat? Final layer of paint
6. A social insect - threatened by hive collapse
8. Dirty? Unkind
9. Middle East port city, famous for oranges
11. Excited, amazed
13. \_\_\_-phones are made of wood
14. Soil? Third pin of an electrical plug
15. Letters rearranged into new word
16. Fruit of the garden of Eden
18. Dry country
20. Additional? Bit part in a film
21. Have open relationship? Playground pendulum
22. What we all breathe

• **Solution: page 23**

102.3  
102.3  
102.3  
102.3

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# David Suzuki: The environmental activist's activist

Permission to publish given by New Scientist <http://www.newscientist.com>

by Jo Marchant

What makes us fool ourselves that things have never been better? Why do we fail to live within the constraints that our planet and biology have set for us, when future generations will pay the price? As Canadian campaigner and activist David Suzuki tells Jo Marchant, those are the questions that keep him awake nights

## Is anything more important than the environment?

I can't imagine anything more important than air, water, soil, energy and biodiversity. These are the things that keep us alive.

So why do we put the economy first, and use it to define progress?

You would have thought that our first priority would be to ask what the ecologists are finding out, because we have to live within the conditions and principles they define. Instead, we've elevated the economy above ecology. After all, ecology and economics have the same root - "eco", from the Greek oikos, for "home". Ecology is the study of home, economics is the management of home, and of course, our home is the biosphere.

## How do the economists answer you?

They believe humans are so creative and productive that the sky's the limit, that if we run out of resources, we'll find substitutes. If the substitutes run out, we'll go to the moon, mine asteroids or harvest sunlight in space and microwave it to Earth. They think the whole universe is there as a potential resource.

## Isn't space a potential resource?

The option of going into space allows you to pretend that technology will get our asses out of any problem so we don't have to worry, which is just not true. Limitless resources are a fool's dream that we can

never achieve. The reality is we are biological beings dependent on the biosphere. What kind of intelligent creature, knowing that these are our crucial limitations, would act as if we can use Earth as a garbage can and not pay a price for that?

Limitless resources are a fool's dream that we can never achieve.

## Has any human society ever lived sustainably?



When we were hunter-gatherers we had a very small ecological footprint because all we had was what we could carry from one place to another. But as technology increased, we began to live in large aggregates of villages, and people started to use more than the surroundings could supply. As a result, civilisations collapsed again and again, as Jared Diamond described in *Collapse*. In the past, though, when conditions got more difficult, people were able to move. That's why we spread out from Africa. Well, we filled the world up. Now we're the most numerous mammal on the planet and causing an unprecedented extinction crisis. Our future is very much at stake.

## So what can we do now?

We can't go back to scrounging a living off the land - we wouldn't be able to do it. Also, the land wouldn't be able to tolerate that kind of assault from so many people. For example, 85 per cent of Canadians live in large cities. We're stuck with those urban places, so they have to be made much more benign in terms of energy and resource throughput. We've never had to do this in our history.

## Will we need to lower our standard of living?

Yes, if you determine your standard of living by how much money you've got or what material goods you have. But if you judge standard of living by quality of life, by your relationships with other people and your community, then I say that truly sustainable communities offer a far preferable way to live.

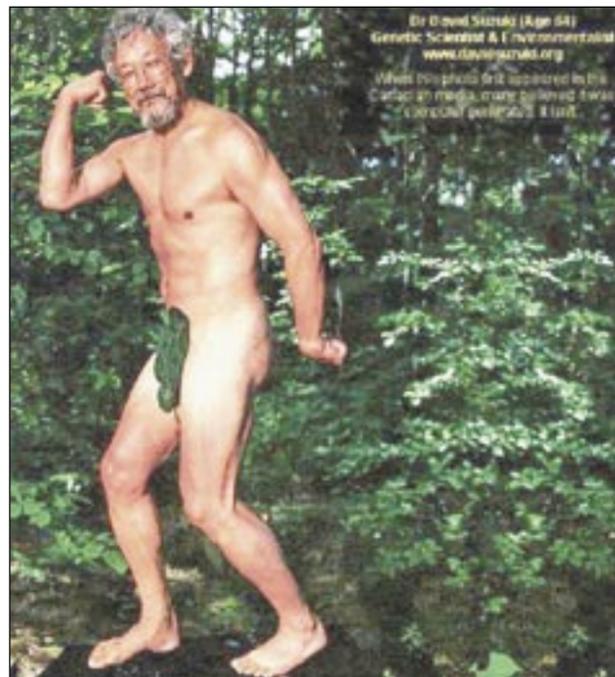
## What would a sustainable society look like to you?

First, we must acknowledge that we are animals. If you give a speech to children in North America and say: "Don't forget that we're animals," their parents get very angry and reply: "Don't call my daughter an animal, we're human beings." We like to think of ourselves as elevated above other creatures. But the human body evolved to be active, so denying we are biological creatures has taken us in the opposite direction: we stuff ourselves with more than we need, sit on our asses and drive 10 blocks instead of walking! Sustainable living would be much healthier: we would go out and walk around because there would be shops, musicians and people out on the street that we'd want to meet. That's what community is all about.

Plus we have to stop this crazy stuff where cellphones are turning over every six to eight months, where people rush to get the latest iPod, and then it all goes into landfill.

## What about population growth?

We're way overpopulated. But it's not just a function of numbers. It also has to do with per capita consumption. The industrialised world has only 20 per cent of Earth's population but uses more than 80 per cent of the resources and produces more than 80 per cent of the toxic waste. I asked a top ecologist at Harvard University how many humans Earth could sustainably support, and he said 200 million if you want to live like North Americans. Even if you only look at industrialised countries,



there are way too many of us. When I say this, people get angry. They say the stores are filled with food, we're living longer than ever, we're better off. Well, the reason we have the illusion that everything is OK is because we're using up what our children and grandchildren should expect to inherit.

## How do you hope to persuade governments and businesses to make fundamental changes?

When you talk to politicians, they're just focused on the next election. When you talk to business people, they're just focused on the quarterly report. At the Suzuki Foundation we say to them, let's look ahead a generation. Let's imagine a Canada where the air is clean, and fewer than 15 per cent of kids develop asthma. Let's imagine a Canada covered in forest we can log forever because we're doing it the right way; a Canada where you can drink water from any river or lake, or catch a fish and eat it without worrying about what chemicals are in it. When you define a vision for the future that way, everybody agrees. That's very powerful because you've done two things: we're no longer fighting because we're all on the same side, and we've got a target. Can you achieve that target?

We have divided foundation activities into nine areas, such as energy, waste, water and food, with targets we believe

are achievable in 25 years. We call it "sustainability within a generation". And our parliament just passed a bill mandating that government activities be filtered through the lens of sustainability within a generation. I'm very proud of that.

We also ought to be pulling back on taxes on good things that we want to encourage, and tax the hell out of bad things. We pay CAN\$99 a

tonne to put garbage into a landfill but we don't pay to put pollutants into the air! Our corporate community screams and yells at the very suggestion of a carbon tax but I'm sure one is coming, it's only a matter of time.

## You're clearly very passionate about this.

I have grandchildren. Anybody that's not passionate about this doesn't give a shit about their grandchildren. I'm 72. I would love to be retired and doing some painting and the other things that I've left off doing all these years, but I don't ever want my grandchild to look at me and say: "Grandpa, you could have done more."

## Profile

David Suzuki received a PhD in zoology from the University of Chicago. He hosts CBC's long-running science show *The Nature of Things*. He co-founded the David Suzuki Foundation in 1990, to work "to find ways for society to live in balance with the natural world that sustains us". Visit [www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org).

## The Big Scrub - The Big Winner

The Northern Rivers based Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group have been awarded \$368,000 under the Caring for Our Country program.

Dr Tony Parkes, the Chairman of the Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group commented. "This grant represents a major expansion in the scope and scale of our work - we and our partners now have been given this great opportunity to restore endangered lowland rainforest in the North Coast region."

With the threat of climate change, restoring and maintaining the health of the remaining patches of this precious rainforest will really help its survival. "This rainforest is a living museum of more than 100 million years of evolution - It is incredibly valuable and important", Dr Parkes said.

The project is called 'Restoring Lowland Rainforest in the NSW North Coast Bioregion', and will primarily finance on-ground weed control and monitoring work at 80 sites with endangered lowland rainforest vegetation. Forty two of the sites are within the Big Scrub and most of the other 38 are sites in the Tweed, Brunswick and Clarence catchments. The project includes eight nature reserves and seventeen local government sites.

The project will involve a broad-based partnership of regional stakeholders including landholders, EnviTE, Lismore, Ballina, Byron and Tweed Councils, the NSW Department of the Environment and Climate Change, Rous Water and other major landcare groups. Additional new rainforest regeneration jobs will be created.

This is by far the largest project the Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group has undertaken since it was formed 16 years ago. It is the first time its activities have extended beyond the Big Scrub.

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# Nimbin Bushwalkers top off the year with some great walks



by Len Martin

After the weather we'd been having I was not optimistic about our AGM walk on November 30th. But lo, the day dawned bright and clear, encouraging 13 intrepid souls to Nimbin Rocks Co-op to tramp to the heights, up steep shady slopes by a snigging trail on which a well-known local allegedly used to ride his motor-bike. Beautiful rocks and trees, occasional orchids, acres of kangaroo grass, majestic grass-trees and spectacular views. Then, across the paddocks to our verandah where we were joined by some less intrepid members for a rich repast and the sordid business of an AGM. Suffice to say that the club remains in good nick financially, with 50 signed up members and a **new president** – the venerable Michael Smith, author of *that* book on local walks, web-master supreme, leader of many of our walks and much better organized than the previous incumbent. The latter, perhaps foolishly, has taken on the secretaryship, in which he will continue to do publicity and reports, but no longer be responsible for preparing a walks program. *That* will be done by our newly formed Program Committee comprising Judy Hales, Don Durrant, Neil Biggar, David Holston, and chaired by our new Presidente. We will continue to offer two weekend and one mid-week walk per month, and hope to have our first 3 month's program (Feb/March/April) firmed up early in the New Year. Anyone who has walks they would like to see on the program, please contact me (6689 0254; [pteropus42@smartchat.net.au](mailto:pteropus42@smartchat.net.au)). Kay Martin remains our Treasurer and Public Officer, while Don Schell becomes President in Charge of Vice. Membership renewals (\$15/person) are due now.

Friday December 12 dawned wet, wet, and wet – rain and low cloud as far as the eye could see – which wasn't very far. "Gawd, who was the fool who had suggested a camp in the Border Ranges on December 13-14th with us going on the 12th to secure camp sites at Forest Tops?" The previous few day's weather had been awful, "rain, with heavy falls" had been forecast for Saturday. I'd had a bad



night and was in a foul mood. I actually rang National Parks Kyogle hoping that they had closed the park – but no they bl\*\*dy hadn't. So we gloomily packed the Landy, collected Judy in Nimbin and set off. Amazingly the weather brightened and by the time we reached Forest Tops the low cloud had virtually disappeared and we set up camp in dampish but bright conditions, soon with a good fire warming the cockles of our hearts in the shelter shed. A carpet python with a truly massive load on board made us wonder as to the wisdom of taking toddlers to such places. We were serenaded by Red-eyed Green Tree Frogs – a remarkable call comprising several harsh screeches followed by a series of soft bubbling sounds – later a couple of couples demonstrated amplexus. What a lovely evening. Alas, there arose a horrible howling night-time gale – another bl\*\*dy sleepless night and foul morning mood – partly offset by the early arrival of Don Durrant. But by walk start-time no one else had appeared, so I was fretting about not giving enough details in our program. We waited 15 minutes, then set off up Brindle Creek in cloudy but dull and **rain-free** conditions, ideal for seeing rain-forest. Many fallen trees, some cut through by the rangers but some recent and uncut.

Fifteen minutes into the walk, a yell from behind. Ron had been delayed for 30 minutes on the road by a fallen tree, which he was clearing

with his mighty axe, when Neil appeared in his van. Both having got through, Ron raced ahead to catch us up. So off we went, reaching the beautiful Selva Falls where Judy caught crayfish. Still no Neil! Again I fretted – had he gone off the road? Another member, Angela was meant to meet up at Ron's place, but hadn't – fret, fret. Then as we left the falls, Neil and Angela appeared safe and sound – the group was growing. We walked out at Antarctic Beech Lookout – still with a fairly hefty wind. Kay, Ron and I returned to the start by road, taking one and a quarter hours, while the others returned by the track. On return to Forest Tops we found our new president Michael and consort Joy, who had spent the day mountain climbing near Kyogle. A fine calm evening with much Xmas cheer around the campfire – and a **good night's sleep!** And no real rain!

Sunday dawned calm, bright and clear with Ian and Caroline, joining us for the great Booyong Walk descent to Sheepstation Creek – with the Landy left at the bottom so that we didn't have to walk back up. The Booyong must be one of the best rainforest walks. For starters it's virtually downhill all the way. The track starts off narrow and winding through lush forest, then emerges onto a smooth shady service track where one can safely walk head-up admiring the canopy. Then onto a good narrow track with moss covered rocks, tall canopy and wondrous palm groves, finally reaching one branch of Sheepstation Creek – a delightful spot for lunch – clear running water with catfish, huge black and orange damselflies as well as the usual blue ones. Then a bit of uphill as we did the Rosewood Loop – well worth it – superb open rain forest with huge figs and a massive Rosewood. Thence down to Sheepstation Creek campsite via more wonderful bits beside the creek and a short detour to admire the Brushbox Falls before the final boring bit up into the camp area where Judy rescued a huge bristly caterpillar from a gang of marauding goannas. Every one into the Landy for the trip back up where we packed up camp with dry tents – all ready for Woodford! A Happy New Year to everyone and looking forward to our 2009 walks program.

## Crossword Solution

See page 21.



## Nimbin Garden Club Notes



Plenty to see. Photos show Garden Club members enjoying Club meetings during 2008.

by Gil Schilling

How does one know it's summer in Nimbin?

Too easy, first one notices the extreme discomfort of heat and humidity, often followed by violent storms with high winds and much thunder and lightning. Then there are the power blackouts, the fallen trees and debris all over the roads, the sight of SES, Country Energy and Council personnel traversing the region and doing their best to sort out the resultant damage.

Around my place it is also the early 'rip-rip' of dueling chainsaws – I just love the smell of two-stroke in the morning – with neighbours clearing roads and driveways before repairing their fences and accounting for stock. Just another typical Nimbin summer!

It has also been extremely busy in town with many visitors inhaling the seasonal vibe. And it has also been an especially good time for garden club members to take a break from meeting activity.

Just a reminder, if one is needed, that the garden club will soon resume near normal activities, with its first meeting for the year scheduled for Saturday 21st February 2009. Venue details etc will be advised in the February edition of The GoodTimes and by club newsletter.

So mark the calendar and watch this space.



## WALLERS BUS COMPANY



### Leaving Lismore through to Murwillumbah

Normal Depart Times			School Holiday Times		
8:00	2:35	3:20	Lismore Transit	8:00	2:35
8:10	2:45	4:00	Goolmangar	8:10	2:45
8:20	3:00	4:15	Coffee Camp	8:20	2:55
8:45	3:20	4:30	Nimbin Ave	8:35	3:10
9:30	3:30		Nimbin depart	9:00	3:30
9:40	3:40		Blue Knob	9:10	3:40
9:50	3:55		Twin Bridges	9:15	3:45
9:53	4:00		Mt Burrell	9:20	3:50
10:10	4:20		Uki	9:40	4:10
10:15	4:25		Mt Warning turn	9:45	4:15
10:30	4:40		Murwillumbah	10:00	4:25

### Leaving Murwillumbah through to Lismore

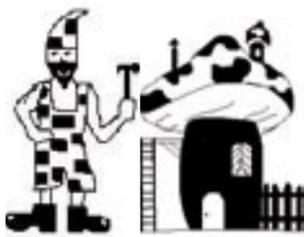
Normal Depart Times			School Holiday Times		
7:10	1:50		Murwillumbah	7:30	2:15
7:20	2:03		Mt Warning turn	7:42	2:28
7:30	2:08		Uki	7:55	2:33
7:55	2:30		Mt Burrell	8:10	2:55
8:00	2:35		Twin Bridges	8:20	3:00
8:32	2:40		Blue Knob	8:30	3:05
8:45	2:50		Nimbin arrive	8:40	3:15
7:50	9:00	3:30	Nimbin depart	9:00	3:30
8:05	9:10	3:45	Coffee Camp	9:10	3:40
8:15	9:20	3:55	Goolmangar	9:20	3:50
8:50	9:35	4:10	Lismore Transit	9:35	4:00
8:55	9:40	4:15	Lismore Depot		

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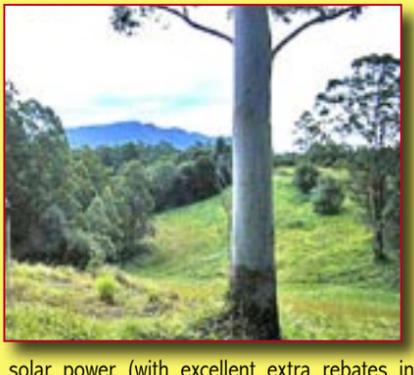
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<p><b>EUNGELLA \$795,000</b></p>  <p>A stunningly beautiful historic home set on a rare acre of elevated land with town water. Rural and Mount Warning views. This historic home has been fully restored with original antique features. French doors lead out to wide open verandahs on 4 sides, luscious low maintenance landscaped gardens with a variety of established fruit trees relay a feeling of peace and serenity. Rich timber floors, high ceilings with ornate features throughout, palm fringed in-ground pool and entertainment area....enough? What about the 2 room studio which is fantastic guest accommodation, or with a little planning could afford a gorgeous B&amp;B setting. Think style, elegance, opulence, character, history, charm - words cannot describe it....come and see! 6 minutes to Murwillumbah and only 30 minutes to Coolangatta airport. Ref.#1191</p>	<p><b>UKI \$849,000</b></p>  <p>Endless opportunities presented here in this Uki Central property. Sitting under the gaze of Mount Warning in arguably Uki's prime commercial site lies this 4 Bedroom home upstairs with open plan living and super views over the village to Mt.Warning. Sitting on over 1000m2 of land which is zoned residential with current commercial usage. 2 large shops on the ground floor currently being used as the local hairdresser and a Crystal Gifts shop would provide great passive income in whatever form you wish to lease them out. Car parking for up to 10 vehicles provided. Would make a great medical centre or other type of holistic healing centre. 10 minutes to Murwillumbah and only 40 minutes to Coolangatta airport with tweeds coastal beauty just 30 minutes away. Position, Income and the prospect of very good future capital returns. Why wait? Create the dream today! Ref.1179</p>	<p><b>DOON DOON \$520,000</b></p>  <p>Beautiful, warm &amp; cosy cottage set on nearly an acre of manicured easy care gardens with super views of both the Doughboy and of Mt.Warning. Very quiet and private location with undulating farmlands surrounding the property. Kick-back on the spacious deck which takes in 3 aspects so you can make the most of the breezes and sunshine and watch the wallabies play in the fields below. The owners have spent a lot of time and money getting this property to the state it is in now where you don't have to do anything. Good water storage, big double garage and ample downstairs storage space complete this idyllic lifestyle picture. Set in Doon Doon, one of the most picturesque parts of the valley and just 30 minutes to Murwillumbah and under an hour to the Gold coast. With fishing, sailing and canoeing on your doorstep just minutes away at Clarrie Hall dam. Put yourself in the picture. Ref.#1189</p>
<p><b>UKI \$398,000</b></p>  <p>Situated in one of the quieter streets in Uki on a large 2060 square metre block is this nearly completed new home.</p> <p>There are 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom on the top floor and 1 bedroom a study and a bathroom on the lower floor, an ideal design to give privacy for mum and dad from the kids.</p> <p>A double garage for the cars and a great shed for dad. Added to all this is the possibility for a dual occupancy STCA.</p> <p>Why not come and live in this great town and if you wish, change this property into an extended family scenario.</p> <p>Why not check and see whether this new home entitles you to the \$21,000.00 first home owners grant.</p> <p>Priced right at ..... \$398,000 Ref.#1188</p>	<p><b>NIMBIN \$810,000</b></p>  <p>This amazing 105 Frost Free Terraced Acres sits proudly at the foot of Mt Nardi in the Nimbin Valley. Just 6km of sealed roads leads to Nimbin Village's café lifestyle, Schools, Hospital &amp; Sports Clubs. This property has several springs and streams for year round irrigation &amp; drinking supply. Currently licensed to carry 70 head of cattle &amp; has recently been approved for revenue earning from Carbon Trading. Included is an Architecturally Engineered shed extension with panoramic views of the Nimbin Valley. Grow Industrial Hemp, breed cattle or start an Eco Tourism Facility (Lismore City Council will allow up to 36 S.C Units as part of an approved Rural Retreat Facility STCA), it's your choice. Included in the sale is 240 volt solar system, instant hot water gas unit, slow combustion fireplace and a gravity fed water tank. Plus ADSL. Very Motivated Vendor who wants to move on. Ref.#1187</p>	<p><b>Mt. BURRELL \$439,000</b></p>  <p>What a super property, and going for a song. 5 acres of beautiful fully fenced, north facing land with views of Mt.Warning, Sphinx Rock, Mt.Burrell and the world heritage listed Nightcap range. A meandering, bubbling creek across the bottom of the property with its very own swimming hole means plenty of water for your fruit and veggies giving you a self-sustaining life style in one of the most beautiful locations in the valley and all only a short walk from Mt.Burrell service centre for your daily grocery needs. Or just stroll down to the café for your coffee fix or brekky. A purpose built 14m x 12m colourbond shed built to council specs as a very liveable home with 2 huge bedrooms, massive loft area and lots of open plan living space. All services in place, including broadband access and just 45 mins to Coolangatta airport. Escape the rat-race today! Ref.#1181</p>

## Nimbin Lifestyle 6689 1305

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<p><b>BAMBOO BEAUTY \$800,000</b></p>  <p>Set in the beautiful Mount Burrell area in the Tweed Valley is this very special property. This property has 12 acres of land with four buildings; a new 4 bedroom home plus 3 studios. The main home is brand new, it is spacious and sunny with big verandahs and has all the comforts you would expect for a new home. The studios are separate from the main house ensuring privacy. The main artist's studio has inspiring views of Mount Warning. With 30 varieties of bamboo an abundance of water from spring fed dams, the possibilities are endless!</p>	<p><b>LOVE ME TENDER \$295,000</b></p>  <p>With spectacular views of Billen Cliffs and the Border Ranges this one bedroom home nestled on a picturesque 10 acres has a tonne of potential. The home and acreage is studded with mature gums, fruit trees and has a superb leafy outlook. There is loads of water and rich alluvial soil making this prime agricultural land. The home is a real renovators special, but where else will you find acreage under \$300,000.</p>	<p><b>MAGIC HAPPENS \$129,500</b></p>  <p>Occasionally an opportunity to be part of something special comes up. This secluded two acre share set on Nimbin's 5-star community awaits...Tucked away off the main access road, this block has a sunny northerly aspect providing ample opportunity for solar power (with excellent extra rebates investigated &amp; available). Surrounded by old growth trees and with stunning expansive views of the pinnacle and the caldera this is truly a special place. The owners have commenced work and there is a driveway down to a laser leveled building site, plus clear clean spring water piped to three locations on site. Community fees have been paid in full until Feb 09.</p>
<p><b>ON TOP OF THE WORLD \$430,000</b></p>  <p>Set high on the ridge above Nimbin this lovely 12 acre property has expansive views over the Nimbin Valley. Tropical gardens and mature fruit trees surround the tidy four bedroom home. The home is set up for the family, with a large tiled kitchen/dining area. The kitchen is fresh, modern and clean, it also has 2 stoves, gas and wood burning; sure to keep the whole house warm on those chilly nights. The bedrooms are large with huge windows to let the sun stream in and the breezes blow through, the main bedroom has a massive built in robe. There are raked ceilings throughout and beautiful decks to the front and rear ensuring plenty of space for relaxing in all weather.</p>	<p><b>COLINS CREEK CLASSIC \$315,000</b></p>  <p>This gorgeous homestead has maintained all of its original features; like the large walk in pantry, VJ paneling, fanlights above the doors, original iron bark stumps, an external meat safe and beautiful French doors opening to verandahs at the front and rear that invite in the inspiring rural outlook and majestic views of the Border Ranges. All of these romantic turn of the century features plus many modern practical ones; a 2 bay colourbond shed, a heat exchange hot water service and a new septic. The 5 acres is perfect for horses with big figs to shelter under, a set of small round yards and a quaint little stables facility. Just 10 kilometers from Kyogle village this property is well worth inspecting.</p>	<p><b>SERENDIPITY \$330,000</b></p>  <p>This is an immaculately presented property located in one of the best strata titled communities in the Nimbin region. The home has 2 bedrooms both with feature stained glass windows that look out into beautiful bush land, both with French doors leading onto the sweeping verandahs. The home has high raked ceilings and lots of big windows that create a feeling of space and light. The kitchen is an entertainers delight, clean and fresh with a gas cook top and a Rayburn wood burning stove that provides back up hot water to the solar hot water system. This home is situated in a Brush box grove at the end of the road, guaranteeing seclusion.</p>