

ASTRO FORECASTS FOR 2010

YOUR MONTHLY REVIEW OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS

BY TINA MEWS



2010 will be a very interesting and important year regarding our latest global and personal developments. Some great opportunities for genuine progress and resolution are forming on the horizon. If we are courageous, we could experiment with combining and applying left-brain realism and reason with right-brain intuition and imagination. Saturn, the guardian of the threshold to the promised arrival of the Aquarian Age, will be retrograde between 13th January and 30th May. Plans and schemes have to be worked out more thoroughly and new responsibilities need to be incorporated to complete the picture. Jupiter, the planet symbolising good fortune, will be in visionary Pisces for most of the year, offering compassion and creativity. We are urged collectively to maintain a hopeful attitude towards the future.

Aries: Opportunities come from taking a sensitive approach to life. During this year you will feel more empathetic towards others and your own spiritual needs. Take the chance and delve into your hidden self, join a meditation group or spend some time alone. In this way, you will be better equipped to deal with the challenges that you are confronted with. Relationships will be more demanding and you feel like having to choose between your or your partners needs. Establishing a compromise will be difficult as long as you are resisting the process of moving towards your true purpose in life. Watch out for ego barriers to avoid power struggles with others. Early February and mid August are especially critical.

Taurus: During this year, you will be working on defining new goals and objectives for future projects. You can count on the support of friends who feel empathetic with your goals. Limitations at work will become more obvious and you will feel like breaking the chains that are holding you down. Your view on things has changed and you feel more inclined than ever to free yourself from old restrictions. Sudden events

in late July might push you out of your comfort zone. However, you can trust the process, because the changes that are occurring are according to your life's purpose.

Gemini: During this year you feel like forging ahead for advancement and growth in the your career. You are working hard on your creative projects, pushing yourself to go beyond your usual limits. By the end of April you will be reminded again of inner or outer obstacles that are standing in your way. Then, sudden opportunities through new friendships will arise in the beginning of June that might expand your vision. If you remain focused on your goals, you will find yourself sailing towards some new horizons.

Cancer: This year's opportunities will come through long distance travel or contact with people from different cultural backgrounds. It will be important to keep an open mind because pressures on the home front are building. Deep sweeping changes in your relationship dynamics are challenging your security needs. You are asked by the cosmos to make the

necessary changes to your life circumstances in order to integrate the inner growth you have been experiencing. Security structures that are outgrown have to be abolished and replaced by new beliefs and philosophies that embrace the greater You!



Leo: This year's opportunities for growth come from joint projects with others. Take good care of your body, because overstraining your physical or financial resources might lead to exhaustion. You will be tested on your abilities to cooperate and communicate with others especially at your work place. Careful planning is essential for attaining your creative and innovative goals and will help in applying your energies with sufficient self-discipline. Just practise some emotional detachment. Around your birthday you might make exciting new discoveries through unexpected news or people arriving from overseas.

Virgo: This year you will feel open towards new kinds of relationships that broaden

your view and support your spiritual development. Your values and the way you feel about yourself will go through significant changes. You might feel like breaking with outworn traditions. Conflicts with your children will lower your

confidence and you might have to restructure your parenting obligations. You will need more freedom from duties in order to engage in meaningful exchange with others. In money matters, you might be well advised to apply some constraint by curbing expenses.

Libra: You are on the threshold of a new cycle of experiences. More than ever, you are confronted with yourself and your true identity. This year will see you moving towards self-direction and independence. Relationships that hinder your growth will fall away or need reforming. You can expect deep sweeping changes at the home front that will challenge your

needs for security. In early February or after mid August a change of residence might be unavoidable. You probably would benefit from engaging yourself in some kind of healing or self-awareness course to facilitate inner growth. Opportunities and fulfilment come from attending to your work duties. There might be a chance of a job promotion.

Scorpio: You have entered a time of self-contemplation, where it will be important to withdraw from the world occasionally. You might feel tired of your job and need a change. Even your body might feel exhausted after years of hard work. It is important to listen to your body's needs and adjust your life accordingly. During this year you will be asked to examine deep seated thoughts and feelings with the purpose of eliminating what is outgrown and holds you down. On the lighter note, it can be a highly creative period, during which you have the opportunity to come in contact with your own 'inner child'. Indeed, playing with your children or grand children will provide fun and inspiration.

Sagittarius: Focusing on building inner wealth and strengthening family relationships will lead to an enriched domestic life. The energy is changing from material concerns to emotional values. Indeed, you might find that in general your values are going through a transformation, including your finances. You now are asked by the cosmos to shift your focus, if you have spent too much time worrying about your career at the cost of a meaningful home life. You will find that your creativity will gain renewed strength just before mid winter, eventually leading to a new phase of productivity in the years to come.

Capricorn: Since last year you have entered a new phase in your life's journey where your identity is going through a major transformation. Your beliefs about the world have been tested and new insights are gained regarding what truly matters to you. Challenges during the year

will arise from your career path and public image. It will increasingly be harder to maintain the living standards you have achieved so far or conform with situations that are contrary to your cultural values. Circumstances in early February and after mid August are beyond your control and will be forcing you to revise your thinking. On the other hand, you will increase your opportunities through networking with others. Becoming engaged in community projects that are dear to your heart will bring many benefits.

Aquarius: The inner growth which you have been experiencing during the last year has to take on form now, either through a new job, new possessions or an expanded value system. Your need for freedom has grown increasingly, making you less willing to give in to the pressures of others. Somehow, you seem to be prevented from fully embarking on your journey towards freedom and personal success. Circumstances and people seem to provide stumbling blocks. However, the real issues behind your blockages are your own inner demons. Face them with detachment and you will see how perceived weaknesses transform into your strengths.

Pisces: Opportunities come from self-discovery and having a generous and open approach in your dealings with others. New friends are coming into your life and you will enjoy the emotional intensity. However, there is also the chance that you will be confronted with your innermost fears. The question will be how much freedom you need in order to remain self-reliant, and how much of yourself you are willing to share. Ultimately you have to remain true to your own deepest values, which will provide you with the confidence to walk your path with integrity. It is wise to avoid any financial risk taking.

Tina is available for personalised yearly transit readings. Workshops will commence in early February focusing on 'The Astrological Circle of Houses'. For more details or bookings please ring Tina on 6689-7413.

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Film Review: Avatar

Reviewed by Stephen Wright

James Cameron is not just the film Director of "Titanic" and "Avatar," he is also the man who claims to have discovered the actual tomb of Jesus. The actual tomb of the actual Jesus. And his family. And Mary Magdalene.

The politics of the tomb of Jesus Christ being found by a Hollywood mogul with the same initials is one of those things that are just too weird to get one's head around, but perhaps it points to the vast Titanic-sized gap between the grasp on reality of the denizens of Hollywood and everyone else on the planet.

James Cameron obviously likes Very Big Things. Big boats, big icebergs, film budgets bigger than the national debt and extremely gi-normous, incredibly big, you-just-won't-believe-how-big-this-is-really-you-won't, films.

"Avatar" is the biggest film yet seen in the known universe. Even the advance notices were spectacular. It was claimed that the 3D effects were so dynamically convincing that people reeled out of cinemas vomiting. "Man, you should have seen that 3-D stuff! It was so real I couldn't handle it! I

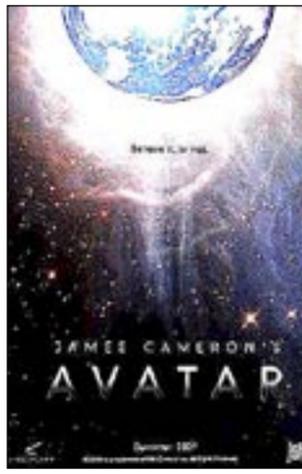
had to throw up!" It's a bit like the claim for the first automobiles that speeds of over 65kph would be fatal to the human physique.

The special effects in "Avatar" are very, very huge and very, very slick. It's Star Wars on steroids, it's Shock and Awe for the Reality TV generation and another gobsmacking victory for technology in films, something of which Americans are inordinately fond. The film "2012" is a piddling little special effects wannabe next to the hugeness of "Avatar." "Avatar" blatantly takes much of its imagery, and even some of its plotlines from the great Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki's two films "Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind", and "Princess Mononoke", both environmental epics, but with more nuanced characters than anything Cameron can dream up. "Avatar's" special effects are strictly 2D. Ex-marine Jake Sully (Sam Worthington), now working for an evil mining corporation set to pillage the peaceful planet of Pandora and annihilate its indigenous inhabitants the Na'vi, is offered the

job of 'driving' an avatar, a genetically-engineered Na'vi body, so he can worm his way into the Na'vi affections and make them easier to get rid of. However, once he learns their eco-friendly earth-loving ways he becomes one of them and has to make a stand to prevent the planet being turned into a giant mine.

The portrayal of indigenous people in Hollywood films has moved on a bit since 'Return of the Jedi' say, where they were portrayed as humorous gullible teddy bears, and like the Ewoks in 'Jedi' the Na'vi get to experience a cinematically similar forest attack by bad guys in machines before fighting back with bows and arrows and clever tricks. But the noble savage ideal of 19th century Europe isn't dead yet, not in James Cameron's books anyway, and that's what we get in "Avatar", what one Koori academic I knew once referred to as "love prejudice", as opposed to "hate prejudice." If a bunch of Hollywood executives sat down to plot a blockbuster that would cynically massage our collective unease about the ransacked state of the planet and the desperate plight of virtually all of its First Peoples, this is the movie they would make.

The 3D is very cool a lot



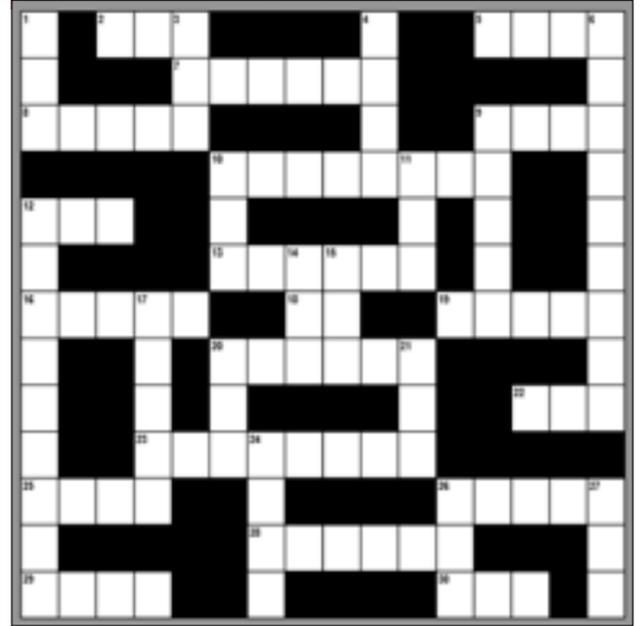
of the time, but not all the time. It works best in indoor scenes where there is a lot of perspective and a lot of angles to help out the illusion of depth-of-field. Outdoors, a lot of fiddly little things, insects, flying flowers and so on have to keep being dropped into the foreground to remind us we are in 3D.

"Avatar" is really Disney for grown-ups, and politically and narratively, about as sophisticated as a Disney film. But the plot of "Avatar", or the politics of "Avatar" is not why you go to see "Avatar." You go to be wowed-out and go home with your front cerebral cortex zapped into porridge by James Cameron's awesomeness. So don't think too much, sit back with your special specs and enjoy the technology.

Nimbin Crossword

2010-01

by 5ynic



Across

2. Be wrong
5. Nut – stimulant
7. Descend cliff face
8. Unclothed
9. Not odd
10. (Measured by) the movements of the stars
12. Arachnid weave
13. Craving? Want
16. One of Central America's first people
18. Gold?
19. Moral
20. Soundless
22. Spoil?
23. (And 26 across) High fashion threads on Cullen Street (beautifully rolled?)
25. Lismore paper
26. (See 23 across)
28. Fool? Insect eating bird
29. Rip
30. Reddish brown horse

Down

1. Confess? Possess.
3. Radical? Unit of radiation
4. Move out of focus? Britpop has-beens
6. Radio (or TV) anchor
9. The chosen? To choose (by ballot)
10. Soap froth
11. Day before
12. Extreme temperature (5,4)
14. Our star (Latin)
15. Anger
17. Your Mexican friend?
20. Address (for knight)
21. Smallest state
24. Members of a pantheon
26. Task? Gentile tested in the Old testament
27. Black resin, accumulates in smokers' lungs, and covers ever more once-pristine national park

Solution Page 23

Reviews from the Crypt

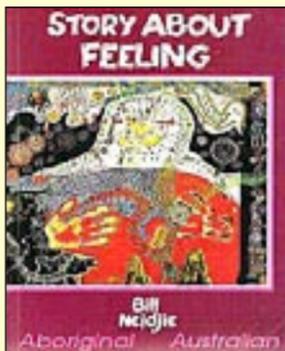
by Stephen Wright

Bill Neidjie: Story About Feeling (1989)

Bill Neidjie was the last living speaker of the Gugudju language and born into the Bunitj clan, whose country was the western side of the East Alligator River. It's because of Bill Neidjie that we have the Kakadu National Park.

Toward the end of his life Neidjie was placed in an extraordinary position, one in which there are few parallels. He realised as the last speaker of Gugudju that when he died much secret business, usually only given to initiates, would die with him. He then made the startling decision to break the taboo on transmitting that business to non-initiates.

"Story About Feeling" is a unique book. It is set out as a prose poem, but is a transcription of discussions with Neidjie on his people's culture, and transcribed as he spoke it in his Aboriginal English. His insights into the functioning world and our connection with it are



profound, and expressed with great simplicity and power. "That star e working...see?/E working, I can see./Some of them small, you can't hardly see./Always at night, if you lie down.../Look careful, e working...see? When you sleep...blood e pumping."

Neidjie has no conclusions to give to us. He is just trying to say something truthful about a perspective on reality that has had assaults on it which beggar belief. It's not for nothing that indigenous people have renamed Australia Day, 'Invasion Day.'

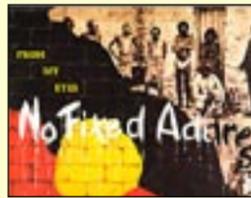
No Fixed Address: From My Eyes (1982)

The first contemporary film featuring indigenous musicians was 1981's "Wrong Side Of The Road", featuring the Adelaide bands *Us Mob* and *No Fixed Address*.

Us Mob were a hard rocking outfit with blistering guitars and ascerbic lyrics. They left no recordings behind them, apart from what might be on the soundtrack of 'Wrong Side Of The Road', but their mates *No Fixed Address*, did.

Their debut album 'From My Eyes' showcasing their crisp, melodic reggae style released on vinyl in 1982 was briefly reissued on CD on the now-defunct Mushroom label ten years later. I used to see them play in Adelaide with *Us Mob* in about 1981, and both bands were outstanding live acts.

NEA's trademark songs, 'We Have Survived' (which you can track down at YouTube) and 'Greenhouse Holiday' are wonderfully



recorded songs which deserve to be in the pantheon of all-time great Australian songs. 'From My Eyes' is as brilliant as it is innovative, and probably if *NFA* had been singing about how unhappy they were in love, they might have had a bigger reception.

But lyrics like, 'We have survived/the white man's world/And the horror and the torment of it all' were never going to endear them to Molly Meldrum and the various pop-thugs who ruled Australian rock and roll, never mind white audiences, who in 1982 were too busy consuming such schlock as *Human League's* 'Don't You Want Me, Baby' and *Men At Work's* 'Who Can It Be Now?'

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Brave New Woodford

by Bob Tissott

OK. It's 5am and the pale, early-morning sun finds us gliding to a halt at the end of a strange caravan of heavily laden exotic vehicles. Through the swirling mists I can make out burly utes with their tuff-steel toolboxes crammed with cereal, saucepans and six-packs; bamboo encrusted Bedfords stuffed with wholesome goodness, oiled canvas and dreadlocks; smug self-contained Winnibagos and overloaded, trailer dragging, roof-rack bending, station wagons (that's us). The 2009 Woodford Competitive Team Camping Challenge had begun. Whilst lacking the steady,

metronomic soundtrack of willow on leather, or the irrelevant grandeur of a flotilla of millionaires racing each other to the yacht-club bar in Hobart, the Team Challenge makes up for it with nail-biting suspense and dirty, underhanded tactics, all played out behind a thin veneer of Xmas cheer and camping camaraderie. We'd come prepared for all contingencies; even to the extent of hiding a pair of gumboots deep in the trailer for the compulsory boot search. (Apparently thousands of people had been sneaking through the checkpoint hidden inside boots, forcing the organisers to adopt a more Draconian approach to entry. More about this later.)

While not going into details of tactics (Team Byron may be reading this), suffice to say that Team Nimbin took the high ground and the Gold Medal for campsite position but could only manage a Silver for excessive comfort. Congratulations to Team Noosa who appeared to bring an entire furniture store of recliner comfort to their camp. A well deserved Gold!



Pictures by Diana and Jed Tissott.

Once settled, we headed in to the festival in search of the best food available and this year the award for Best Grub must go to the Moroccan Noodle shop. Despite having an eco-disaster when the toilet block behind them disgorged a tsunami of brown sludge that flooded their floor, they had a full house and queue within minutes of the high-pressure hoses finishing the cleaning job and the bio-hazard tape being removed. That's when you know the noodles must be great.

Hopefully the flood of shit was just a one-off local glitch and not in any way associated with the new \$1.25 million waste treatment plant. Woodford is now a closed system and no waste leaves the property. Well, not toilet waste at least...

Right! Enough of that. Let's check out the entertainment. And at this point I must make mention of the enormous influence Nimbin wordsmiths have had on the spoken word content of the festival. Up to a half a dozen local poets performed daily at the Poets Breakfast; Archie and David had solo gigs; Gail placed second in the Storytelling and Len also a second in the Slam.

As for the music... it was good. No, seriously, it was fine. I heard lots of really good music in a wide range of genres but I only had a couple of moments of overwhelming, grinning-like-a-loon pleasure at the impossible virtuosity of the artist. (I'm sure I used to have more) One was with James Morrison. The other was John Butler with his new haircut and new trio (Nicki Bomba and Byron Luiters). His concert was for me the highlight of the festival.

A few names to watch out for this year (in my esteemed opinion) would be Mama Kin, Dallas Frasca and Richard Perso. Mama Kin is a soul mistress with a New Orleans flavoured groove, Dallas Frasca is flaming red dreadlocks, chunky slide guitar and **attitude** up to here, and Richard Perso is somewhere between Ash Grunwald and Xavier Rudd.

He's also young with an amazingly powerful voice that will only get better.

And finally, a few thoughts on the management of the political and social milieu that is Woodford. I mentioned earlier about the car boot checks to catch illegal immigrants attempting to find a better life in the Republik of Woodford. Seriously, what kind of numbers are we talking about here? Hundreds? Thousands? And how big are these people? How the hell do they fit in with all the other stuff people's boots are crammed with? It's a week of camping!! "And who will be searching the boots?" I hear you ask. "The volunteers?" No, my dear friends, the Queensland Police will be there to do the job. And fine you for trespass if they catch you in a boot. Just as they can now fine you \$500 if you're caught in the festival without a wristband. Or perhaps you'd prefer a fine from a Shire Ranger for smoking outside of a designated smoking area.

All of this is made possible since the QFF took out a single liquor licence for the entire site, effectively subjecting the festival site to the same restrictions as a hotel. And effectively allowing outside interests to dictate behaviour within that area.

I think it's a big mistake...



PROGRAM 2010

Monday

00:00 Randomised Acts of Musical Kindness – Groove on with our Digital DJ
08:00 vacant – apply now
10:00 Absolutely Fabulous – Chat and music with Gail
12:00 Rancid Candy with Mim
14:00 Museum Show with Elspeth
15:00 Nimbin Aboriginal Broadcasters – Music from the heart of Bundjalung Country with JB, Luke & Burri
18:00 Nim-FM news – Local news brought to you by Pam & Ian
18:05 Roots 'n All – Frank brings you hot world beats interspersed with topical and esoteric issues
20:00 Feed the Fire with Harmen
22:00 The Lounge – Lay back and enjoy interruption-free music all night

Sunday

00:00 The Lounge – Mixed blessing from the digital one.
08:00 The Word on Sunday with the fill-in priest
10:00 Hits 'n Misses with Katrina
12:00 Latin Radical with Warwick
14:00 Nimbin Aboriginal Broadcasters with Luke, Burri & J.B. With regular guests. All in the heart of Bundjalung country
17:00 Princess Diamond Show with Marc and Panama
18:00 Funk Machine with Marc
20:00 The Sticky Mud Show – without meat

Tuesday

00:00 The Lounge – Kick back till dawn. Music Music Music
08:00 Morning Show Nimbin Time – News, views & music with Chig
10:00 Underwater Radio – A community focused program featuring local musicians and music with Martin.
12:00 Health Show with Helen
13:00 Konichiwa Australia with Maki
14:00 Ron's Rave with the above
15:00 Maids, Mothers & Crones – Women's issues, spirituality and magic, presented from the crones's perspective with Raine
17:00 Whole Lotta Love with Sue
18:00 Nim-FM news – News & current affairs with the Nim-FM news team
18:05 More Love with Sue
20:00 Four Footed Furry Faced Friends show – Animal news, views, stories & issues, intertwined with mostly Aussie and local musicians. Rock from 60's, 70's, 80's to now with the Pussycat

Wednesday

00:00 Random Musical Biscuits – Tasty Treats from our binary baker. All night
08:00 Nimbin Aboriginal Broadcasters – From the heart of Bundjalung Country, deadly beats from the local crew, JB & Burri
11:00 Still kicking with Kerry
12:00 Put Down Your Politics, This is Planet Soup – Tasty musical flavours from all over the globe, with Caroline
14:00 Nothing Sacred – Christine brings you 20th century poetry and music
16:00 The Goodtimes Music Show – Bob keeps it local with news, views & occasional guests
18:00 Nim-FM News – News and Current Affairs with the Nim-FM news team
18:05 Mama Mia Italian Hour – All Italian music and news. Join Jingles, get a cappuccino and enjoy
20:00 Side Tracks – An eclectic blend of 60's psychedelia, progressive rock, blues, shamanic/political overtones and fun to listen to; with George
22:00 The Hinge of the Week, with the plastic blowup DJ

Thursday

0:00 Random Musical Biscuits – Groove all night with our binary baker
08:00 The Third Stone – News, briefs, commentary, Peaea's morning sunrise with tunes, easy going.
10:00 Kaputt Radio with Martin
12:00 Jazz and World Music – Wolfgang continues with Contemporary world music and Jazz
15:00 Deutsch' Stunde – German news, interviews and music. All the latest from the continent with Wolfgang
16:00 Museum Request Show with Elspeth
18:00 Nim FM news – Local News brought to you by Pam & Ian.
18:05 Jagoism – Environment & social issues and music, with Mark
20:00 Nimbin Blue with Garry

Friday

0:00 Random Musical Treats – Non-stop music all night. Let our digital DJ be your friend
07:00 Get the F... Up – Wake up with Justin. You will never be the same again
09:00 Life in the Sandpit – Current affairs, ethics, morality and the sweetest of sounds. Kick off your shoes and come and play with Bob & Jack
11:00 Ecocentric – Local Environment news, issues, actions with Jak & Vanessa
12:00 The Hemp Hours – Drug Law Reform, Hemp Activism, Medicinal Cannabis & Political Comment (sic) Bob, Michael & The Goddess
14:00 Nimbin Aboriginal Broadcasters – Indigenous music and news with J.B. & Luke from the heart of Bundjalung Country
17:00 The Footy Show (during season) Currently not happening
18:00 Nim-FM News – News and Current Affairs with the Nim-FM news team
18:05 Tortured Soul Asylum with Alice & Charlie
20:00 Earache My Eye – Heavy metal from every angle by Asher who is... living metal
22:00 The Screaming Lounge – All night metal

Saturday

00:00 Metal glory – The revenge of the blow-up DJ
08:00 Pigphatt + Bumnuts – Sat Morning with Garry
10:00 Kat Kav with Katrina
12:15 The Power & The Passion – Alternative power news and more. Peter will bring you up to date on all the latest in alternative power
14:00 Fumbling with Palmer
16:00 Uncle Len's Tall Stories – Poetry - Prose readings by Uncle Len.
17:00 Greenland with Richard
19:00 City Ram – Music, aliens, magazine entertainment with Uncle Seti Ram
23:00 The Unmanned Spaceship – Flying over uninhabited land

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A great Nimbin Bushwalking Club year ends in great sadness

by Len Martin

It's not easy writing euphoric accounts of two wonderful camping weekends when one knows how it ends, but I'll try. The week had been stinking hot so we were not tempted to go early to Toonambar Dam west of Kyogle. Saturday Nov 28th, 8.30am, over 30°C on our verandah, so wondered if it would be too hot to use the canoe perched on the Landy.

Bells Bay Campground is a secluded spot in magnificent forest – largely there for fisherfolk, and organised by a local angling club, with shelter sheds, toilets, rainwater tanks, barbecues, jetty and boat ramp. We had envisaged swimming, canoeing, fishing, sitting around or even walking, but it was so bl**dy hot!

Amazingly, on arrival, we were greeted by a small thunderstorm sprinkling us and cloud so thick that we launched the canoe and paddled to the north end of the dam and back without getting burnt to a crisp – though the head wind going turned into a returning head wind – Sod's Law – this poor old sod getting a bit exhausted. But wonderfully, we drifted to within 3-4m of numerous Jacanas. Then pleasant swimming and sitting around as the heat returned with a hot northwesterly.

Nonetheless, at 3.30pm our intrepid leader Don Durrant insisted we took "a short drive" to Eden Creek Falls. Some considerable time later, after a bumpy ride for some in the back of Don's ute, we arrived at the old Forestry picnic site for a designated 90 min return descent to the second of 3 falls. Remarkably, despite the steep slope, we all did it in fine fettle, well within 90 min, some enjoying the fabulous plunge pool below



the spectacular top falls. On return, the camp was crowded – a night fishing competition – but we enjoyed a quiet night's sleep, rising early to beat the heat. Some took a shady walk to the dam wall and back – fairly easy, but some agility needed, with spectacular rock formations (and rock-falls!). Others swam, and Mon and Jon braved a hot north-westerly gale in Don's canoe. The midday heat was such that we decided to break camp and head for home – which was even hotter.

The heat continued, but leader Judy Hales, Kay and I decided to go to Black Rock, Bundjalung NP on the Friday (Dec 12) because we wanted the best camp site near the creek and thought it might be cooler near the coast. Don and Linda Schell were to organise anyone turning up at Nimbin carpark on Saturday. As we early birds reached Woodburn the sky clouded over and a southerly buster appeared. At Black Rock, the best shady campsite was vacant. Judy promptly walked the Black Rock beach – Jerusalem Creek circuit. We canoed down the creek and back. Later we beach-walked in a cool southerly gale that sculpted the foam

into bizarre shapes. The evening was positively cold. Early next morning Judy canoed, we beach-walked, returning to find a half dozen arrivals, after which we all did the creek-beach circuit. Later, various people used the canoe and Michael Smith launched his sailing dinghy down the creek, but had to row back. A pleasant evening, some viewing a fabulous phosphorescent surf. Sunday AM – more canoeing and close encounters with an unperturbed perching Osprey. Later, some enjoyed a hot walk to Wendoree Lagoon where we bathed amidst dragonflies, while others canoed. Idyllic. Thence to overheated Nimbin.

In the evening, a phone call from Denise Whitney gave me the devastating news that our much loved bushwalking companion and Vice-President, Don Schell, had died in his sleep early Saturday morning – a horrible experience for Linda. Fortunately Don and Linda's close friends and neighbours, Dennis and Diane Whitney and Barbara Taylor could support Linda at this awful time; many others have rallied around since. That Sunday evening, after telephoning friends with the news, I spoke to Linda and she asked me to write something for the *Nimbin Good Times*.

I feel lost for words. I feel so deeply for Linda. We feel so deeply for Linda, yet nothing one says ever seems adequate. Don's death was so unexpected – a fit man in good health, a man who enjoyed life to the full, with the expectation of many wonderful years with Linda. They were so happy together. Their love for each other was self-evident, as were their shared enthusiasms. Finally, after all the travails in building their new home, they were just about to move in and really enjoy it. I want to howl curses to the heavens, it is so unfair. Many Nimbin Bushwalking and Garden Club members have enjoyed Don and Linda's company – so there will be many sad hearts around Nimbin.

Don did not want a funeral ceremony, instead there will be a celebration of his life in January. And it is a life

to celebrate. Don was an eminent scientist, a chemical oceanographer specializing in stable isotopes in oceanographic and biologic systems, Professor Emeritus at the University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, and former director of the Institute of Marine Science. But as well as all that he was a great bushwalker, a great companion, with great wit and dry sense of humour, a huge breadth of knowledge and never hesitant in speaking his mind. He would also scare the spit out of club members with his enjoyment of sheer rock faces. Don, you will be sorely missed.

As Linda says of Don, "He was admired and loved by many, many people for his kindness, caring and helpful nature. He lived life to the fullest because as he told me many times, life is short so make the most of every day, enjoy the beauty of a sunrise, the beauty of the wonderful world of nature. He loved his farm here on Mountain Top and we shared, if only for a brief time, a life filled with love, happiness and contentment."

Linda, you may be in a foreign land, but you have many, many friends among the natives. Our love goes with you.

A more substantial obituary has been published in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner and is available on line at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/newsminer/obituary.aspx?n=donald-m-schell&pid=137578289>

I have a copy and will email it out to Nimbin Bushwalking Club Members, along with this report. No doubt about it Don was quite a guy. No wonder I enjoyed his company – a shared interest in fireworks from an early age and long after!

Film by North Coast locals grabs the Prize

'Chai Tent at the End of the Universe' has won first prize at the 09/10 Woodford Folk Festival's Spirit of Woodford 2009 Video Awards.

Directed by Darmin Cameron (pictured holding the award) and edited by David Tindale, the film tells the story of the musicians, patrons and workers affection or otherwise for the Chai Tent over its 21 year history at the Woodford Folk Festival.

Darmin shot the footage and interviews at the Chai Tent's birthday celebrations last year and brought the footage back to Lismore where editor David Tindale completed the production.

'Chai Tent at the End of the Universe' is a cute 'warm and fuzzy' little insight into the spirit of the Chai Tent. It's about "good people doing good things," said Darmin, "and by the looks of it, having fun at the same time."

'I was very surprised to win,' said Darmin. "The other films were quite good as I viewed them I thought no that's it, no chance, but obviously the Judges had other ideas."

The competition was tough. It was very close, two points separated 'Chai Tent at the End of the Universe' from the runner up. The judging process is quite complicated. There are a panel of experienced filmmakers, representatives from the Queensland Folk Federation and the staff of a company called Nutri-Tech Solutions (sponsors) sit down and watch all the entrants – whew! So there is a large demographic. There is a \$4500 prizemoney for the winner.

'Chai Tent at the End of the Universe' is a humorous



tale that celebrates the Chai Tent, one of the Woodford Folk Festival's most enduring venues. It is a warts-and-all look at what the musicians, patrons and workers feel about the Chai Tent.

The Spirit Judges were generous in their praise: "It has many fascinating elements, it is clear in its purpose, well conceived, written and directed. Even if you have never been to Woodford, it captures the important role the Chai Tent plays in the life of the festival and the dedication of the people who make it a reality. It is also complimented by a great deal of humour and a lightness of touch."

"Had warmth and humour and an enjoyable story."

Chai Tent has a large cast, and many punters appear. You can see a few local and not so local performers putting their spin on the "Legend of the Chai Tent". There are Comedians Glover and Sorrensen, Piano Man Harry Freeman, Mr. Percival, Martin Pearson and Lindsay Pollack, Jambazi and the Chai Tent Crew.

The Chai Tent Woodford, where they sell steaming hot Chai, Chai to rival the best Chai from the best Chai Wallah on the streets of Bombay, in India, home of Chai. When too much Chai is barely enough, there is only one place to be. "Meet you at the Chai Tent".

Crossword Solution

See Page 21



DISCOVER FITNESS

JANUARY SUMMER HOLIDAY SESSION TIMES 2010

Sessions and Dates in January	Discover Body Circuit	Discover Body Blitz	Discover Body & Mind / Circuit Combo	Discover Body & Mind (Yoga)
Monday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th	9.15am			
Wednesday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th		9.15am	5.40pm	
Thursday 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th				7am

NIMBIN SHOWGROUND, CECIL ST NIMBIN
Normal session times resume 1st Feb 2010
Ph Cassandra 6689-1405 for further assistance

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Locals welcome to bring produce
CAR WASH - TRAILER HIRE
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CYCLE PUNCTURE KITS

Proprietor Dave Basten

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Saturday 8am-4pm, Sunday 8am-4pm

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WALLERS BUS COMPANY

Timetable as at 01/05/09 **NIMBIN - LISMORE - NIMBIN** ROUTE 650

Normal Depart Times	Pick-Up Points	School Holiday Times
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Lovely veranda that flows onto established gardens and garden seating. Double garage located in the garden would make a wonderful studio. Double carport, would solve any caravan or storage needs.

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LILLIAN ROCK \$579,000



Approximately 12 acres of fertile land with valley views in beautiful Lillian Rock on the edge of the caldera complete with a character filled open plan entertainers home with stone and timber features throughout.

Light and airy with gorgeous gardens and an ambience which relays peace and tranquility.

Separate 1 bedroom studio with its own power means you could also realise a good passive rental income. Huge powered workshop/shed for the handy-person of the house and plenty of room for expansion.

Fruit trees abound and a super spring fed lily-filled dam complete this idyllic lifestyle picture.

Minutes drive to local schools and shops this is a must for the young family or investor looking to get into the small acreage market. Inspection strictly by appointment only.

Ref.#1244

LILLIAN ROCK \$385,000



Come and live in a lovely cottage with all the benefits of rural living without the maintenance of larger acreage.

Set on half an acre with views of the Border Ranges and Mount Warning, this quaint home has great features of yesteryear. Tongue and groove walls throughout, teak wooden flooring, double sized bedrooms, and a separate formal dining room just waiting for a dinner party! The garden is filled with many varieties of fruiting, rainforest trees and plants including star fruit, tamarillo, paw paw and avocado just to name a few. But wait there's more!

Check out the veggie garden, chook pen and shade house. Relax wine in hand on the back verandah and enjoy the lifestyle whether it be as a permanent residence or as the perfect "getaway from it all" weekend!

This very private block is only a 10 minute drive to Mt Burrell for all your shopping needs.

Ref.#1248

MT. BURRELL \$230,000



There is so much offered here on this 13 acre share on the popular Sphinx Rock community. Superb views to Mount Burrell and Sphinx Rock with Coal Creek on one boundary.

Ample rainwater storage and lots of living options with several outbuildings, sheds, and partially completed accommodation with building materials thrown in to complete the dream.

Just minutes to the Mount Burrell service centre for all your daily needs. Come and live the tree-change dream today on this keenly priced property which also has a current rental return of \$120 per week from one of the large private sheds.

Ref.#1241

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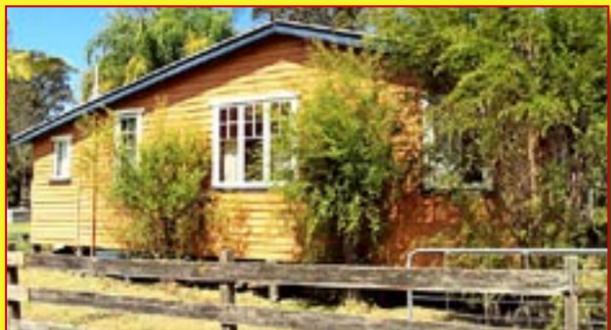
THE LAZY GARDENER \$275,000



FIRST HOME OWNERS AND INVESTORS TAKE NOTE!!

Who wants a big yard to mow? No one! If you are looking for a property with an easy care low maintenance lush tropical garden, you might just have found it. This is the little terrace house with a huge heart, 4 large family sized bedrooms off a central hallway, double sliding doors open onto the beautiful back garden drenching the massive timber kitchen in glorious sunlight, a family room with north facing windows and a wood heater for those chilly nights, the bathroom has a huge picture window and a charming clawfoot bath, upstairs is a huge loft area suitable as a teenage retreat or simply for storage. This home is truly surprising, you just wouldn't believe it could be this large upon first glance, a regular Tardis! Located right in the heart of the village and in the prime commercial precinct, this property has loads of potential as an easy living retirement option, professional rooms, or an excellent rental (the property is showing just above a 5% return) or you could just move the family in, knowing all of the hard work has been done!

CAWONGLA COTTAGE \$269,000



Lots of shade and flowering trees surround this tastefully renovated turn of the century 2 bedroom homestead. This home has many features including spacious lounge with extensive use of timber, top bathroom and entertaining area. There's a separate studio, garage and work shop. All placed on a big block in one of the nicest valleys around. Suit first home buyers or retirees.

START ME UP \$385,000



Surrounded by quaint cottage gardens this big rambling country home is the perfect place to get started. There's loads of living space with a huge living room, a glorious sunroom, an eat-in kitchen/dining area, a sewing room and 3 large bedrooms. If that still isn't enough space there's an artists studio a short stroll from the house, perfect for the artist in the family or even great as a teenage retreat! For the home handyman there's a huge shed and a garage. The property is North facing, frost free and has inspiring views of World Heritage national parks and Mount Warning. With a bus stop at your front door and a school just around the corner, this could be the rural retreat your family has been searching for.

AUSSIES JOY \$399,000



NEW LISTING

Perched on a pretty hill in a lovely tree clad valley is this original stylish country home. It has been tastefully renovated and has polished floorboards. This home is light and airy with an inviting atmosphere and sweeping views from the verandah onto mountain scenery. The 3 bedroom timber home with 2 sheds is placed on 2.5 acres of rolling land, only 5 minutes from town. Ideal for a pony or grow your own fruit trees and veggies.

THAT SPECIAL PLACE \$579,000



NEW LISTING

Amidst a beautiful yard filled with palms and scattered fruit trees and perched on top of a sunny plateau is this unique timber and stone 3 bedrooms home.

With 12 fertile acres and a large spring-fed dam, the possibilities are endless. The timber kitchen incorporates a conventional gas stove and a wood stove for the enthusiastic chef which flows through to the ambience of the open plan dining and living areas that have ceiling fans to cool and combustion heater to warm. In the evening sit out on the patio with a cool drink. The bedrooms have built in wardrobes. Raked ceilings, rock walls, timber and parquet floors are features of this home. The bathroom has been designed to enjoy the outside scenery. There are two toilets and a double carport.

A large work shed to keep the man of the house happy, with a one-bedroom studio off to the side. Walk around outside and enjoy the beautiful views of the valley and mountains. Close to schools and a general store, this property has all the features needed for a family to love.

WHERE THE SUN SHINES \$499,000



Nestled in the hinterland, 20 minutes from the Gold Coast, this magnificent 100 acres boasts all of the features needed for a mountain retreat. All the work has been done in preparation for your dream home. The 4000m² level house site has an unimpeded view of Mount Warning and the Border Ranges, with a backdrop of Mount Burrell and The Sphinx. There are three beautifully constructed rock walls. Two 10,000 gallon concrete, in ground water tanks and a 60m² colourbond shed complete with its own 5000 gallon tank. The property has 5 cleared hectares ready to be put to use and 60 acres of virgin bush adjacent to the national park. Infrastructure is in place for the acquisition of power and the building site has council approval. The owner is reluctant to sell, but work commitments have called him overseas.