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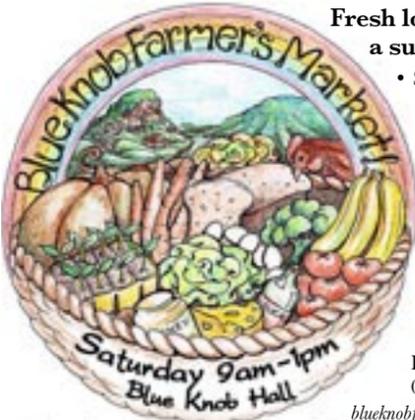
Nimbin Market

Sunday 27th October

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9am – 3pm

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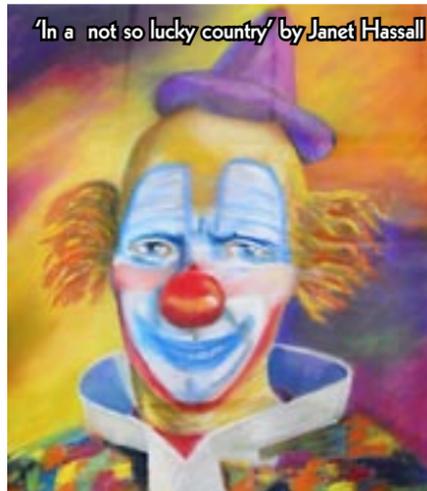
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Your hosts
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'Butch' by Peter Ptschelinzew



'In a not so lucky country' by Janet Hassall

by Peter P.

The school holidays descended upon us again and spring has definitely, as they say, sprung – I nearly stood on a python yesterday as he sauntered across the garden.

There's plenty of travellers passing through Nimbin enjoying the village, not least the art in the Nimbin Artists Gallery.

Refusing to be put in a box, our local artists continue to impress with the quality and variety of work brought in for our September hanging.

Check out new pieces by Janet Hassall and Lae Oldmeadow. And



'Language of the Earth' by Lae Oldmeadow



'Cat' by Marie France Rose

Marie-France Rose has produced some expressive and striking ceramic cats which attract a lot of attention.

But of course, they aren't the only artists with new work hung. We're actually pleased to have received the new work, as the Spring Arts has been running this school holiday and a lot of artists' effort has gone there.

As always, the Spring Arts is a fascinating exhibition with the doors open through to the gallery so you can come in and enjoy both.

Coming up is the Spring Arts' final weekend, with the exhibition closing on Monday 7th October, so don't miss out, if you're visiting Nimbin!

Blue Knob Hall Gallery

The members and artists of Blue Knob Hall Gallery have unleashed some creative, personal and imaginative pieces of artwork for the next exhibition, titled 'Pandora's Box'.

According to Greek

Mythology, Pandora was given a container – with instructions not to open it under any circumstance. Her curiosity overcame her and she lifted the lid, which released the miseries and evils of mankind over the earth.

One thing was left at the bottom of the container – the Spirit of Hope.

Today, the phrase "to open Pandora's box" can mean an action that may seem small or innocuous, but which can turn out to have severe and far-reaching consequences.

The exhibition runs until 24th November.

Artists and Friends Lunch

Our popular Artists and Friends lunch



'Lines in the sand' by Alex Easton

will be held Thursday 31st October at 12.30pm. Cost is \$15 per person for set vegetarian mains with a choice of desserts.

It's a really great way to spend time with friends, so if you'd like to come along, please phone to book your place with the Gallery on 6689-7449.

Silver Service Sunday

Our inaugural Silver Service Sunday was a great hit, so we're doing it again on Sunday 13th October at 1pm. Cost is \$25 pp for a choice of either vegetarian or meat mains and a choice of desserts. BYO wine if you like. Bookings are absolutely essential: 6689-7449.



'Be Aware' by Robin Moore

Basketry festival keeps ancient skills alive

Weave & Mend 3-day camp: Friday-Sunday, 4th, 5th, 6th October in Nimbin Community Centre grounds

This Weave and Mend is the ninth festival, and the end of a cycle of renewal. It is a hands-on local celebration of weaving, keeping ancient skills alive during times of industrial takeover.

Weave and Mend is organised by the Wednesday Women Weavers, who have been meeting weekly to weave since 2000, and who donate their time to sharing their knowledge and skills.

Anyone can come to watch: look, learn and listen. Entry to the festival is by donation and any profits go into a Children's Art Trust Fund. To date this trust has sponsored the local Youth Leading the World Congress and Children's Art projects.

Anyone can join a workshop, which will run

continually throughout the 3 days. Two-hour workshops are \$5 and four-hour workshops are \$10. Bookings will be taken on the day. All materials are provided, with locally-made bone needles for sale – BYO picnic blanket and scissors. There will be some refreshments, chai and food available at the festival, and Nimbin's Cafes and shops are just across the road.

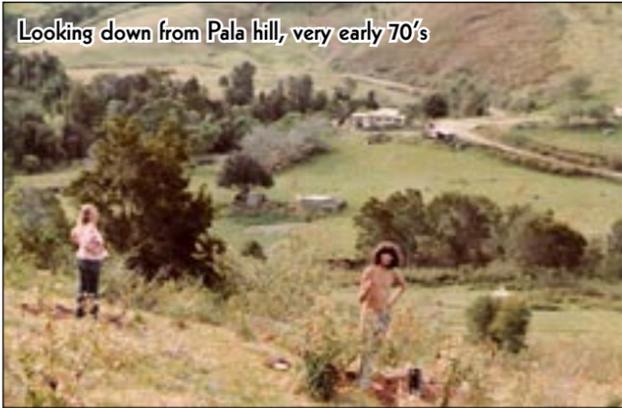
People attending the festival for three days can camp at the Rainbow Retreat for a special weavers price of \$20 for 3 nights. Rainbow Retreat is located on Thornburn Street in the heart of Nimbin, a 10-minute walk from the Community Centre.

For further information, phone the co-ordinator on (02) 6689-7129.

Weave and Mend is sponsored by the Nimbin Community Centre, Nimbin School of Arts and Nimbin Hemp Embassy.



TUNTABLE COMMUNITY: 40 YEARS TO CELEBRATE



Looking down from Pala hill, very early 70's



Kalidome 2



by Megan James

This month, we celebrate 40 years of Tuntable: 40 years of dreams, gardens, struggles, meetings, rules, workdays, romances and relationship breakdowns, babies, kids, schools, cows, mud, floods and endless rain, dope busts, weeds, trees, trees – building, building, building – people, people, people... and always the beautiful creek flowing down from the Falls.

The largest intentional community in Australia (we have about 260 active members) and one of the first, we have pioneered alternative ways of living and relating by sharing the land we live on, with no internal boundaries. We have learnt, grown and shared so much together. Thousands of people have lived here, whether for a few weeks or for many years, and we have formed a community that stretches far beyond the physical boundaries of the valley.

Our community has survived! Whether we see it as a glorious experiment, an affordable housing program, a step towards ecological balance, a sanctuary for misfits or a creative union of souls – we have achieved a stability and a real sense of community well worth celebrating. So that's just what we are going to do for four days this month – from Friday 18th to Monday 21st October. The 19th marks the day 40 years ago that Co-ordination Co-operative was registered as a Co-op.

While the property deposit was not paid until mid-December 1973, a few dozen people were already living here. Elsewhere, others were actively promoting the Co-op in the cities and seeking more \$200 shareholders to pay off the purchase of 1000 acres for \$100,000.

Those early days were wild but also often idyllic, as disparate (and desperate) characters came and went. Domes were built with enthusiasm and huge communal gardens established to feed people in the days before the dole was available. A dairy herd on the areas designated as community commons provided milk and meat, despite vast ideological differences about diet. Wilderness areas (which now adjoin the National Park) were set aside and the whole property is a wildlife sanctuary.

For our first 20 years, many brave souls weathered innumerable wet seasons under canvas and in rough shacks while they built most of the 120

houses now in the valley. The children that came or were born here lived without many of the comforts that are now taken for granted by new arrivals, but enjoyed a freedom and an enviable camaraderie that carries on into their adult lives, whether they have stayed to make their homes here, or are travelling far and wide across the planet.

In 1979 a small group established the White House Pre-School and in 1981, we held our first Tuntable Falls Primary School class of 12 in our community-built schoolroom. Since then the schools have continued to flourish and grow, attracting new young members to our community and ensuring its survival. Many of our celebration events will be held in the school grounds and you can see what a fantastic job the parents have done in utilising government stimulus funds to give the buildings at least another thirty years of shelter for alternative education.

Tuntable community was very active at Terania in 1979 and even more so in the 1982 fighting for the forests at Mt Nardi that resulted in the establishment of our precious Nightcap National Park. Many activists returned from their successful fight for the Franklin River in Tasmania for the Aquarius Ten Years After Festival held in the valley in 1983. The festival also saw the Tuntable community set up a volunteer-run shop to raise funds for stock for our newly-completed shop building, which functioned as a community hub for over 20 years and has recently been converted to a commercial kitchen and cafe.

26 meetings to design our community Hall were held in the old Tea-Bails (recently demolished after a long and eventful history, including our first Pre-School class and our original cafe). There we debated the pros and cons of rectangular versus hexagonal designs until we eventually settled on a compromise design of a traditional hall with a semi-circular vestibule. Community decision-making at work!

By 1985 our Hall was well underway. The main structure used poles from our abundant forest, as well as beautiful old recycled timbers we salvaged from demolishing the Catholic Church hall in South Lismore. Mud-bricks were made by the ton onsite to form infill walls and the Hall has now seen many, many dances, performances of all kinds, funerals, band practices, gym and circus classes, forums, workshops and classes – as well as our AGMs and

monthly Tribal Meetings, where major issues are discussed by the community, before being legally decided by our hardworking 9-person Board of Directors, elected annually.

Since the earliest days, Tuntable has had its own firefighting truck and community tractor, housed at the Centre and managed and operated by a small committed team. The massive growth of forest and weeds within the valley, from regeneration plantings and natural regrowth, has overtaken much of our pastures. We are now engaged in a work program to mend fences and restore pasture as a refuge from bushfire, as well as providing dairy and meat animals with feed - and humans with a sense of open space.

The original 1000 acres of the property (since expanded to about 1,800 acres) were bought from Sam Mackay, who continued living in the valley for some years after our arrival (a deal to compensate for late payment). We were very fortunate in the early days to have elders like Sam and Irvy to guide us in so many aspects of country living. Sam's house has now been extensively renovated to provide members with a comfortable, easily accessible space in times of illness and as a healing centre.

In the early years, live music was a constant – you could almost always hear someone playing or singing. The gradual infiltration of solar power and its associated proliferation of electronic gadgets has meant sadly that most music played in our homes is pre-recorded. But we are still home to many fine musicians of all ages – and the Anniversary celebrations will feature the talents of past and present Tuntable performers at afternoon concerts at the School, as well as rare recorded old audio which you can hear as you wander through the huge exhibition at the Pre-School. Everyone is invited to the Friday 18th Bush Dance and our BIG Birthday Party on Saturday 19th October, with a host of local performers and some very special guest artists.

Over the past 20 years, whilst our numbers have remained fairly stable at around 250 people (including children & guests), our demographic has shifted to include many of the children of our own children, as well as those bright young souls who have come to share what we have built. This brings much gladness to the hearts of the elders and keeps the spirit alive in the valley.

Come join us in our rejoicing!



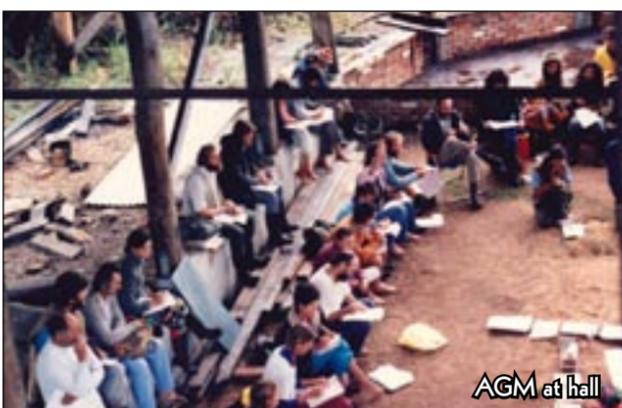
Corn crop and domes, 1970's



Early houses



Preschool kids, early 1980's



AGM at hall



Easter Bunny, Tony



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A hazy summer feel

There is a hazy summer feel to sunrise over the Sphinx this morning. The forest has started gassing off its Eucalyptus oils already, subtracting some of the clarity to the mountains beyond. Everyone is telling of a hot summer to come. The drawl of the Torresian Crow is just that bit lazier, just that bit longer. The ephemeral springs have stopped and the dams that I thought may have sealed up are puddles in a sea of cracking clay. Luckily I don't have to flush away my precious rainwater. There is something very primal about composting toilets: the deep dark hole below, the connectivity with nutrient and carbon cycles. As a conservationist of many years, I relate to my own need to conserve what is closest and spiral outwards from there. Historically, sustainable cultures began with a civilized way of dealing with their by-products. Traditional

Yemeni apartment buildings collected poo, which were dried and burned as fuel. In nineteenth century London "earthen closets" safely processed faeces to remove pathogens and create fertilizer. "Night soil" was collected from cities and towns in many Asian countries to be used as fertilizer on fields. In Japan, elaborate loos were constructed along roads to attract travellers, farmers competing with each other for the chance to harvest human by-products. Perhaps that may help explain Japans modern day fascination with toilets. Before the advent of chemical fertiliser, human manure was a very valuable commodity. Along with animal manure it was shipped dry to reduce its weight. Some ships holds were quite wet and more than a few methane induced explosions resulted before all manure was stamped S.H.I.T (Ship High In



View from the loo
by Stuart McConville

Transit). Early modern composting toilets date back to 1869, when the Dry Earth Commode was patented in London. Instructions for use were as follows "The Earth must be dry and sifted. Sand must not be used. Rise from the seat QUICKLY! No "slops" must be thrown down. Before using, let one fall of earth be in the pail." The first Clivus (sloping floor) design toilet was built in Sweden in 1939 by Rickard Lindstrom. He wanted a safe way of breaking down human faeces so his children could safely swim in the nearby lake. It

worked a treat. In the early 1970's, composting toilets became popular amongst alternative thinkers and many new designs hit the market. Some worked and some didn't, leaving a patchy reputation. By far the most successful were the simple Clivus and Farralones designs both available from Pooh Solutions locally. Composting toilets have now found a niche in the market for sensitive environments like National Parks and riverside recreation areas. Gardeners, conservationists, riparian dwellers all benefit from the use of composting loos. Fortunately, we don't really need costly sewage plants or septic systems to render human by-products into a harmless substance that, instead of being a problem, is a solution to problems of water shortages, water pollution, and reliance on chemical fertilizers. This is ecological sanitation, taking care of our human sanitation needs in a way that is helpful, rather than harmful, to the environment.

Plant of the month

by Richard Burer

This fast growing and attractive tree is very common in Nimbin and the surrounding valleys and can be found in riverine, subtropical and dry rainforest areas.

Orange-yellow toothbrush-like flowers sparkle in abundance as the trees stick their branches high throughout the landscape. The Latin name means robust and refers to the tree's large size. Growing to 35 metres, this tree reminds us that not all

Silky Oak
Grevillia robusta



grevilleas are shrubby.

A fine tree for the farm, it is best planted on edges of the garden and fence lines, but not near the house. Seeds readily regenerate in bushland if provided with bare ground and optimum growing conditions, ie a good fruiting season (a dry spring) followed by regular rainfall. Seed is usually ready around Christmas and can disperse

itself from the tree with dry hot weather around this time.

Try growing your own trees by cutting off the black dry fruit and putting these in a paper bag so that they open up to a brown boat-shaped seed. Sow in a well-drained mix and pot up a couple of times. They are ready to plant when about knee high and like rich soil that is not too wet.

Who's afraid of the wicked witchweed?

by Geoff Dawe

The idea that balance can not be found in life-enhancing methods and instead is found in eradicating what is perceived to be not-wanted, is deeply entrenched in Western consciousness. Jesus is recorded as commenting, "You do not understand the words of life, because you are in death." (Szekely, E. B. (trans.) *The Essene Gospel of Peace, Book 1*, International Biogenic Society, 1981)

Red witchweed, which has been introduced to Australia and parasitises corn, rice, sorghum and sugar cane, is regarded as a "pest" because European settlement patterns have decided these cultivated plants should be grown monoculturally in order to be readily tended by machinery.

Monocultural attempts at farming encourage pest and disease problems because it is a fundamental law of nature that wherever there is an overabundance of a species, other species will begin assembling to take advantage of a flagrant resource. Moreover, single species planting means all the plants are looking for the same nutrients,

so there is a good chance they won't have optimum nutrition and therefore will become more disease prone. In short, monocultural agriculture is the restriction of the ecosystem diversity of a farmed landscape; the limiting of balance.

The reason for monocultural farming is basically the same as for the reason humans first practised agriculture: they could gain a greater quantity of food for less effort. But it tended to be poorer quality food. Quality was lost to quantity. Paul Roberts for example, records that Britain had difficulty finding enough recruits to fight the second Boer rebellion because one third of potential recruits were either too short for the minimum height of 5ft or they "were too weak to endure basic training." (Roberts, P., *The End of Food: The Coming Crisis in the World Food Industry*, Bloomsbury, London, 2008)

At the edge of the end of the 10,000-year period of increasingly technology dependent farming, we are now particularly able to notice that the greater supply of food for less personal effort

was achieved by technologies externalising costs onto the environment. In effect it was the functioning of the second law of thermodynamics that states that energy in concentrated form degrades over time from ordered to disordered, from available to unavailable. The industrialisation of farming caused the concentrated forms of energy of oil and soil to appear in more degraded forms, respectively and particularly as greenhouse gas emissions and the oxidation of nutrients. But also as the generalised degradation of farming land.

Red witchweed is nominated as "pest" not because it is one, because no condition called "pest" actually exists on the Earth plane, but because humans do not want to obey fundamental laws of nature, that once disobeyed, cause species to act as the humans regard a pest.

Agriculture can re-express itself as polyculture on small gardening farms as a revision of the former European, mostly urbanised, and industrialised farming, settlement patterns. This ensures that human food is

grown in smaller quantities with mixed species on a myriad of small farms so that overall quantity does not reduce.

The mixing of species has many ecological effects, most of which through sheer volume, have not been examined. They do not need to be. Since it is all movement toward diversity, it is movement toward balance.

Red witchweed in particular, can be balanced with plants containing high amounts of antixenotic allomones - chemicals that repel insect pests. The chemicals are found in *Desmodium intortum* and *Desmodium uncinatum* that can be planted as groundcovers with corn, sugar cane and sorghum. But they aim to prevent witchweed parasitism, not cure it.

Farmers in central Queensland need not spend their time "anxiously watching their paddocks for signs of red witchweed," but instead look for strategies for getting *Desmodium* groundcovers planted. Then they will be providing immunity against "pests" rather than just reacting to them as symptoms of an out-of-balance, monocultural, agricultural, settlement pattern.

by Philippe Dupuy, President

Shopfront

Things have never been so busy at Nimbin Environment Centre. Aside from the election, the centre was involved with Koreelah forest action, the Leard Forest mining threat, Brisbane Reef Rally, Whian Whian forest action and the Brisbane Festival of Light. There Alan and a few others did a fantastic job challenging Santos' lies and managing to get their anti-gas projection right under Santos' very nose. See video on Nimbin Environment Centre Facebook site.

Casino Enviro Centre

The Casino Centre played its part and has been a thorn in the side of gas and other resource-greedy companies. We have now been offered radio space on Richmond Valley Community Radio 88.9FM and we are having a promotional trailer built for the Centre. We also hope that soon we will be able to add a page in the NGT for Richmond Valley readers. All this was and is only possible thanks to our dedicated volunteers and our sponsors, the Knitting Nannas, Kyogle Gag, Richmond Valley GAG, CSG Free Lismore and other personal donors.

Commentary

In some parts of Africa people catch monkeys by gluing a jar of lollies to a tree. A monkey coming out to investigate put its hand into the jar to grab a fistful of lollies, can't pull free because of its closed fist and will not let go regardless of capture or death.

Are we no better than monkeys and in the same way unable to let go of an unsustainable lifestyle? Maybe not! A closer look shows that there is a difference between our behaviour and that of monkeys. In our situation, a good number of us have let go, however, the majority are not only encouraged to hang on but duped into thinking that it's the only way.

That is because those who control

the means of disseminating information are no better than monkeys. There is no doubt that we are on a train that is heading towards a precipice with the drivers urged on to speed things up and put more coal in the engine's furnace, while in the very back carriage, the monkeys are feasting on champagne and caviar.

However all is not lost, there is a group of passengers on board who are looking for a way to stop or derail that train (a highly illegal act in the eyes of those enjoying the feast) while the rest are looking away, unsure and uncomfortable. So how will the story end? Much of it will depend on how resolute the smaller group is, and how successful they are, in convincing others of the madness of it all.

The fight is on and these relatively small groups of people are applying the brakes everywhere. At Whian Whian a group of protectors stretched to the limit is fobbing off and holding back vandals intent on the destruction of invaluable tracts of forest.

The question now boils down to 'Will you join us in this fight for survival? Will you side with the greens or with the greedies in the last carriage? With Tony Abbott in charge the choice is clear, it's them or us! Come, join us at Whian Whian, it's the school holidays and what better way to educate the kids? Let's derail that train before it's too late.



Koala Kolumn

by Lorraine Vass



NSW's inaugural Great Koala Count is coming up fast and Friends of the Koala is working very hard to encourage maximum participation here in the Northern Rivers.

The Great Koala Count is a National Parks Association of New South Wales (NPA) Citizen Scientist project being run in partnership with the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, where people are being asked to survey koalas during ten days in November.

Anyone can participate. All that is needed is the BioTag SmartPhone App, or internet access, to record the location of koalas and to answer a few simple questions about the animal's health and habitat.

Developed by the NPA, BioTag allows you to plot the location of a koala from your iPhone, iPad or Android device while recording a picture of the animal and other details about its sex, health, young, and the tree it inhabits. When in phone-range, the data is automatically uploaded the Koala Count website where you can review and share your records with others.

The Great Koala Count builds on previous community-based koala surveys using new technologies to create a comprehensive picture of the current abundance and distribution of koalas. Repeated over time, the Great Koala Count will be able to show changes in koala population, movement and habitat use. Information collected will be publicly accessible to anyone with an interest in koalas. It will be useful in planning and monitoring future koala conservation projects.

In the run-up, two workshops will be held at Pottsville and Lismore. Each will outline the aims and objectives of the Count, how to record koala sightings using the BioTag App and accessing that information using the internet. Participants should bring their SmartPhone or Tablet (iPhone or Android) with them.

Pottsville Workshop: 12th October, 1.30pm - 3.30pm at Pottsville Environment Park, Centennial Drive. RSVP: Tanya Fountain 6670-2587, email: tfountain@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Lismore Workshop: 13th October, 1.30pm - 3.30pm at Southern Cross University, Rifle Range Road, East Lismore. Rsvp: Lorraine Vass: 6629-8388, email: president@friendsofthekoala.org

Following a lengthy review process, amendments to the Native Vegetation Regulation for private native forestry and to the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice for Northern NSW commenced on 23 September 2013. However matters to do with koala management under the Private Native Forestry Code, which were the subject of a separate discussion paper and stakeholder meetings during the review, are to involve further consultation with stakeholders.

There can be no doubt that koala habitat identification and protection measures require urgent overhauling. The EPA acknowledges that its definition of Core

Koala Habitat needs to be clearer. The present prescription involves a survey methodology that has little scientific rigor and is ineffectual. Trees are to be retained if they contain a koala or they have 20 or more koala scats beneath them; an exclusion zone of 20 metres must be implemented around each retained tree.

Koalas are notoriously difficult to see, and their scats decay at different rates. In dry forests they may harden and stay for months but not so in wetter coastal forests or when it's raining or humidity is high. Hunting around for 20+ scats can take time. Whether through carelessness or incompetence the current prescription is often not applied well in coastal and moist forests and many areas of koala habitat are missed as has been consistently demonstrated by the North East Forest Alliance's audits of state forests.

Private Native Forest is arguably the biggest threat to koala habitat across the rural landscape because local government and the State Environmental Planning Policy - Koala Habitat Protection (SEPP 44) have no influence. This year alone (January to mid-May) property vegetation plans for 11,342ha have been approved in Northern NSW.

Other changes to the Native Vegetation Regulation give clear concessions to the farming lobby, including the clearing of paddock trees that provide critical koala habitat, and allowing the removal of native vegetation without assessment and approval by a Catchment Management Authority.

As if that's not enough the government has now announced that it's reviewing the *Threatened Species Conservation Act*, *Native Vegetation Act* and the fauna and flora provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*. This is the government that promised to better protect koala and other threatened and iconic species but there's no certainty that the review will strengthen protection for our much-loved native wildlife and landscapes.

To report a koala in trouble, or a sighting (live or dead), please ring Friends of the Koala's 24/7 Rescue Hotline: (02)6622 1233. For information about koalas, their food trees, how you can assist koala conservation visit: www.friendsofthekoala.org email: info@friendsofthekoala.org or phone 6621-4664. You can also follow us on Facebook.

For more information on the Great Koala Count, November 7 to 17, go to www.koalacount.org.au

To report environmental incidents, including removal of koala habitat ring the 24/7 Office of Environment & Heritage Enviro Line: 13-15-55. Happy koala spotting.



Koalas in them thar hills

by Natalie Meyer

A workshop on restoring koala habitat was recently held at Jarlanbah in response to the increasing number of koala sightings in the Nimbin district.

Speakers included Mark Wilson, from Lismore Friends of the Koala, and Richard Burer, local bush regeneration expert.

Koalas live for around 12 years, need about 20 mature food trees each, and live in groups of around 12 animals.

The size of the territory of a koala group is determined by the density of the food trees. The more spread out the trees are the bigger the territory and the more work the dominant male has to do to monitor his territory.

It is the size of the territory which can have an impact on the health of the koalas as they waste a lot of energy travelling, and are also more prone to dog attacks and car accidents, as well as disease.

Lantana is the enemy of koalas, who will not travel through it. Koalas need easy access through undergrowth to food trees.

You can help by checking if you have food trees on your property and ensuring that koalas can access by clearing and maintaining paths to the trees and clearing around the base.



The main local koala food tree in the Nimbin district is tallowood, with others including forest red gum, blackbutt, Sydney bluegum, flooded gum, brushbox and forest she-oak.

A survey of koalas in the Nimbin catchment will be undertaken to enable strategic replanting. Watch this space for more information.

Friends Of the Koala can provide free koala food trees for landholders, and advice on appropriate species and planting techniques. Email Peter Hardwick at: hardwickpl@hotmail.com and spread the word to anybody who might be interested.



Snake season

And don't the kookaburras love it! Especially these two, snapped on Jarlanbah by Sue Edmonds.

Blue Knob Farmer's Market

by Jim Arachne

This year's Sustainability Alley at the Nimbin Show was the best yet!

Over 300 people attended the 25 talks and presentations plus the screenings of the short films "Local Food Bytes". Many hundreds of hungry, happy customers ate their way through the locally sourced menu of the Paddock to Plate Café and the local stallholders and businesses had such a successful time they unanimously want to return next year!

Talks for October

• Sat 12 Oct, 10am. Making Best Use Of A Portable Saw Mill – Don Mackay

A portable saw mill has some obvious advantages. By bringing a saw mill to your own farm lots of the cost of sawn timber are eliminated, especially the haulage.

A portable mill can be set up in many different sites and you have control over what type of sawn product you want. How much timber can you get from a log? What types of trees are suitable for timber? Don will answer these



questions plus all the other ins and outs of portable saw milling.

Don has been operating portable saw mills (pictured above) for more than 20 years and is also a qualified trainer for use of this machinery.

• Sat 26 Oct. 10am. Products from Bees – James Creagh

We're all familiar with honey that bees produce from nectar they gather – but what of all the other bee products that humans have found uses for?

Royal jelly and pollen for nutritional and medical uses, beeswax for candles or skin care preparations, propolis as a natural antimicrobial – these and other bee products have been used for centuries. James will describe some of these, why and how the bees make them and how to use them ourselves.

James has been cultivating an orchard of mixed fruit and nut

trees, both exotic and native, at Lillian Rock for the last 10 years using biodynamic and organic methods. He has many years experience beekeeping and is a key founder of the Nimbin Natural Beekeepers Group.

Coming up in November

Seed Saving for Home Gardeners and Making your own Household Cleaners and Products.

The Blue Knob Farmers Market runs every Saturday, rain, hail or shine, 8:30am to ~12noon, on Blue Knob Rd near the corner of Lillian Rock Rd., 8km from Nimbin in the grounds of the Blue Knob Gallery.

Beekeeping news

by James Creagh

The swarming season continues. Last week Bayleigh and I picked up a good size swarm at Pony Farm at Stony Shute. It had settled in a Cherry Guava at chest height so easy as to shake into a box and they were so gentle. They are now settled in at a lime orchard on Gungas Road.

If you see a swarm give our bee group a call and we will find a safe home for them. We often get calls from folks that have bees living inside the walls of their house and once settled in are very hard to remove, the pest control are called to removed them with chemicals. For swarms call us on 0413-976-342.

I often think about the way the queen, how she works her way through the hive finding space to lay her eggs, filling an area with eggs that will hatch out 21 days later then moving on to the next frame laying up to 1000 eggs a day. The used cells will be cleaned out and ready for the queen to return again.

As a market gardener, it reminds me of clearing a garden bed weeding and preparing it then burying the seed, then waiting usually 2-3 months to harvest and beginning the cycle again. This time of the year much energy in the hive goes into building up the numbers

for the coming summer and depending on the strength of the hive procreating by swarming.

Nimbin Show

Thanks to all that helped make the Nimbin Natural Beekeepers Tent space (pictured) at the Sustainable Alley at the Show such a success. I have to say that there was a hive of activity at the tent especially around the potted plants, sweet cakes, and honey tasting. Special thanks to Joy at Gondwana for the fantastic plants that she donated for the raffle as well as to Eric for the amazing work in the embroidered pillow case and all who donated cakes and their time.

Joint meeting in October

On 27th October there will be a joint meeting of our group and the Northern Rivers Amateur Beekeepers Association at Tutti Fruitti



Farm, Lillian Rock. The Mullum beekeepers Group, the Mullumbimbees are also invited to join us.

Next meeting

The Nimbin Natural Beekeepers will next meet 6th October at 10am. The meetings are welcome to all, beginners as well as experienced beekeepers. The meetings are an opportunity to learn about bees and share knowledge and experiences about keeping bees.

Weather permitting, we will open a hive and look for the usual things including AFB. For more info contact James on 6689-7575, 0434-892-466 or email: nimbinnaturalbeekeepers@yahoo.com.au



Living with Weeds

by Triny Roe

Boiling water on the bindis, madeira vine into the compost tea, sow thistle in the salad. Moving onto acreage in Nimbin three years ago, began for me a lasting relationship with weeds. The Northern Rivers is a botanical Mecca. Everything here seems to grow bigger, stronger and more prolifically than elsewhere, especially the weeds.

Farmer's Friend (pictured) aka *Bidens pilosa* or Cobbler's Pegs, as we knew them in Queensland, grow over my head here. I never saw them above knee height where I came from. As a naturalised species, this plant is here to stay, and not because the farmers particularly like them, because they don't.

Considered native to tropical America, it has spread worldwide, gaining a reputation as an environmental and agricultural weed in many countries. However, a specimen collected by Joseph Banks in 1770 at Botany Bay suggests it arrived in Australia before European settlement.

B. pilosa grows rapidly, producing its yellow and white flowers in as little as four months and out-competes native species. Though commonly found on disturbed and degraded areas, it can invade more intact ecosystems and germinate in low light. This plant can exert an allelopathic effect, interfering with germination rates of soybeans and other crops. A fast grower and prolific seeder, *B. pilosa* can produce four generations each year with a potential of 3,000 plants from each individual in each generation.

The leaves are widely eaten in Africa as a green vegetable, being rich in iron, calcium and zinc, but reported as tasting horrible and needing plenty of boiling and other ingredients to disguise the taste. They are more popular in times of drought, perhaps because they are the only option. This hardy species can tolerate extreme drought, saline soils and low fertility, so probably the only



thing able to grow when conditions are harsh. *B. pilosa* can even grow in cracks in the pavement.

Therapeutic use of *B. pilosa* is popular in many countries. It has a wide range of applications in herbal medicine and is used to treat a number of conditions including allergies, dysentery, inflammation, coughs, kidney problems and as a general tonic.

Here in Nimbin, the wallabies like it. They graze on the leaves and bring fresh seed to the garden as they lounge on the lawn and groom themselves. The pronged seeds easily stick to fur and clothing and readily hitchhike to new locations. This is one weed that travels well and is here to stay. It is difficult to prevent new introductions, providing lots of opportunities for those who like to get out in the garden and weed.

The Spring rain and recent warm weather has stimulated the germination of plenty of new seedlings of a variety of species. Now is the time to wander around your property and look out for fresh sproutings of woody weed species in your area. Around Nimbin, these can include camphor laurel, Easter cassia, giant devil fig, privet, golden rain tree, paper mulberry to name just a few.

It's a lot easier to pull out a 3cm seedling now than wait three years and have to deal with a 3 metre or higher tree.

Happy weeding!

Benevolent weather gods



by Thomas Rose

The benevolent weather gods certainly have brought summer to us in the first month of spring. Not really sure if that is such a benevolent deed?

However, warm and dry weather are ideal conditions for growing if your water supply is ample and the irrigation system is set up effectively and efficiently.

Tunttable Falls community school is just in the process of doing so by installing a new water tank right above the garden. Even a rather moderate 'head' will enable us to run a drip feed irrigation system set up with length of pipes, running through our raised, rectangular garden beds. A set up with a timer will allow us to apply controlled irrigation during our time of absence.

In the meantime, our busy garden gnomes from the primary and preschool use good old-school hand watering to nurture the plants. And of course, mulching at this time of the year is always beneficial in times of little rain.

There are a variety of different grasses available in our area; apart from the 'usual' bails, often consisting of just any grass (with seeds). It might be worthwhile considering other varieties like sugar cane, soya bean or others. There is a local supplier near Goolmangar, who offers different sizes and many varieties. We recently bought a 350kg rectangular bail for a very reasonable price!

When mulching, keep in mind not to lay it on too thick, otherwise you need 50mm of rain before it can penetrate the thick layers and reach the soil.

Yes, the garden is pumping at the moment. Lots of leafy greens, herbs and beautiful flowers bringing

colours and joy into the place. The 'queen' of the garden is our artichoke, just producing purple heads.

If you are interested, come and have a look. Please contact the school on 6689-1423 for a visit.

PS: Tunttable Falls Primary School won first prize for the most sustainable project at the 2013 Nimbin Agricultural Show (just in case you didn't make it there...)

Happy gardening days for all!

Planting Guide for October

Aubergine, Pumpkin, Beans, Radish, Beetroot, Silverbeet, Capsicum, Tomato,

Carrot Zucchini, Celery, Corn, Cucumber, Lettuce, Melon, Parsnip.

Flowers: Alyssum, Balsam, Calendula, Californian Poppy, Godetia, Impatiens, Linaria, Marigold, Nasturtium, Petunia, Phlox.



Tiny Tots at the Nimbin Early Learning Centre

Our bunch of kids has grown so much over the last couple of months that we were able to form a new group for the littlies: meet the tiny tots and their new educator Kate Coombes.

Katie brings an extensive amount of knowledge and experience for the under two-year-olds after working in several education and care centres and has a Certificate IV in Children's Services.

This means that the babies are not only well looked after but also enjoy a lot of educational stimulation like tummy time, sensory games, mirror fun, music and movement and of course

the popular sandpit where the little fingers can explore endlessly.

Our older children from 2 – 5 years old enjoy having the new company and it feels like a very big family where we can share stories, activities and experiences across the different ages.

Our Tiny Tots group is currently fully booked so if you're interested in enrolling your child (6 months – school age) please come by and register your interest for later this year or even next year. We're located within the Community Centre grounds at 81 Cullen Street or ring us on 6689-0142.



Katie Coombes, our new educator with Bailey and Tierra

Powerful Moments

by Diane Wilder

It was Sass & Bide who coined the phrase: *"...the human spirit will always aspire to shine...to taste the elixir of life, and to bathe in the glory of love. The path we tread is fleeting but our souls all yearn to fly, to know and feel love, to soar beyond dreams, to be lifted to magical faraway places, and to be as big and as bright as the blazing sun... but more than anyone, a child deserves to shine."*

Believing in the power to shine is Nimbin Preschool's creed. It matters not to us if you are a child, adolescent or adult, because our commitment to enabling spaces for shining is paramount within our everyday life together at

preschool, and encompasses all of us.

How inspiring it was for us to witness the energy and enthusiasm of the children's Café Committee whose ideas culminated in the Preschool Café at the Nimbin Show.

With the guidance of Diane, the children formed a Café Committee to decide what should happen at the Preschool Café. The initial meeting was full of ideas on what kinds of cakes we should sell, what jams we should make to sell, and who would want to help serve cakes to all the people.

When children are given space and time to discuss ideas, refine ideas, and then, make their plans visible, we bear witness to a higher level of social functioning where



Max and Tahlia served cake at the Preschool Café all day

they are active in the process of taking in information and building knowledge and understanding from this base. Within such a space, we work alongside children to encourage deeper principles and connections to occur that become evident through differing forms of representation.

With this as an active element, the Committee extended beyond preschool

enabling older brothers and sisters to be part of the process. The Café Committee was one representational form of children's thinking. It provided the children with a platform to be heard, to make their ideas visible to us all, and to engage in the co-construction of an idea.

We thank our Children's Café Committee for enabling a space for all who visited us at the Nimbin Show, to shine!

Silkworms? A certainty at the Playhouse

by Leanne Logan

Early childhood education in Australia has gone through big changes in recent times. And with a new federal government at the fore, more changes are on the horizon. For many in this industry – educators, families and communities – all this has spelt uncertainty.

To some, uncertainty equals worry and fear; to others it's challenge and growth. At Cawongla Playhouse, we choose the latter. We find this way of thinking pays off. And what's more, it provides for great learning opportunities.

So here we are in so-called Spring. But it doesn't feel like spring – more like summer? How can we be certain it's Spring? We ask the children: "Here in our place, how do we know it's Spring? What tell-tale signs does nature give us?" A multitude of answers come forth



"Wow! They're getting so big!"
Observing our silkworm pets

including "silkworms".

And so we check the mulberry trees, and sure enough, the leaves are budding. And so we check last year's eggs, carefully saved on sheets of A4 paper for this certain moment in time. And sure enough, there they are, hundreds of tiny

little black specks, who somehow know that the mulberry trees are doing their thing, and so it is time to do theirs.

Since then we've grown the silkworms into big fat juicy grey caterpillars. We've counted their legs, discussed their diet, questioned how they produce silk and asked a whole heap of other questions. Most of all we've loved them as our preschool pets. By the time we come back from the holidays they will have finished cocooning and begun hatching out as moths - a miraculous transformation, the cycle cycling around.

And so comes our gratitude in uncertain times for the grounding of nature's certainty and a learning opportunity.

Cawongla Playhouse resumes on Wednesday 9th October. We look forward to a fabulous final term for 2013 with you. All enquiries, phone 6633-7167.

Exploring water conservation

With all this beautiful sunny weather that we are having, the children have been able to start playing with water. At Tunttable Falls Preschool we have a sandpit water tank that fills from the sandpit roof. This enables the children to access their own water for play, close by.

Many of the children are currently involved in a drain and dam building project that they initiated. They have designed their drains

and dams – drawing their ideas on paper and putting them into action. They have built complex drain systems – solving problems such as water diversion to stop flooding. They have built dams, ponds and other water holding devices using natural materials available in the preschool playground.

They are currently working on problem-solving the water conservation issues, as it has not rained and the tank is

going down and down. One of the children thought it would be a good idea to save water by using more pipes in the drain. Another child thought that we could line their dam/pond with material that would hold it for longer.

We are now putting their ideas into action. We are making sure we are recycling the water we are using – watering our flower and vegetable gardens and checking the tank daily to see



how much we have used. So far this has been such a wonderful, child-inspired project that has led to so much discussion, problem solving, idea sharing, creating and learning.

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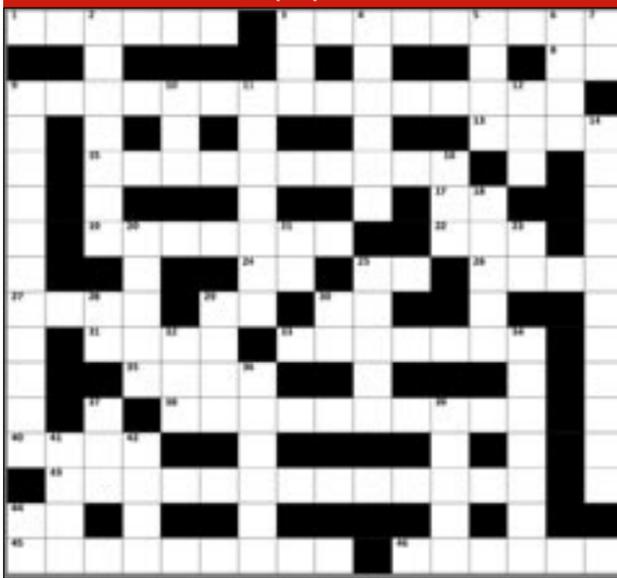
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Nimbin Crossword

2013-10
by 5ynic



Across

1. Every hour of every day of the year (2,1,3)
3. Flying dirigibles
8. Operating System (init.)
9. ___ May break my bones (6,3,6)
13. All time
15. Warning beacon
17. US State, largest US Shale oil operation (init.)
19. Google's video property
22. Casual wear? Failure
24. Quadrant of setting sun
25. Against addiction?
26. Ferment
27. Chance
29. Way
30. Not all that glitters
31. Makers of Jaguar, Land Rover
33. Photographic (memory)
35. Warm-blooded fish
38. Hold up merchant? (4,6)
40. Form? Shape
43. The ghost in the machine (4,2,7)
44. You
45. Alternative therapist
46. Twice a fortnight

Down

2. Community owned project space (1,6)
3. Meditative? Mahayana Buddhism
4. Endearment? Arboreal marsupial
5. One serving for 6 down?
6. Smallest winning margin when calling a horse race
7. WWII Germany military force
9. Tree - digestive, anti-inflammatory (8,3)
10. Barrel
11. Amaze? Surprise
12. Rib? Previous day
14. What doesn't link Casino to Murwillumbah (7,4)
16. Purpose
18. Gulf state
20. Local clothes - Katmandu inspired
21. Whether to is the question?
23. GP
25. Sound
28. Another 29 across
29. (Indian) queen
30. Robotic intelligence (init.)
32. Another 10 down
34. Hold up (at the lights, violently?)
36. Total oxygen depletion
37. Traditional contents of 10 down
39. Preserves olives, fish, feta.
41. Lyrical poems
42. Where the spice most flow
44. ___ LO

Solution Page 31

A Field Trip



Fruit of the Vine

by Terry Beltrane

Students of hospitality are generally gregarious and fun loving people - they have to be, dealing with the fickle nature of customers expecting the best of their dining experience with hamburger pricing. In the second year of their diploma studies, students get into Advanced Wine Studies before the final year of Wine and Food Philosophy as an elective. I loved working with these people, many of whom became friends who I still have contact with; their

enthusiasm and application made my 'job' a genuine pleasure. One particular group desperately wanted me to take them on a winery excursion during vintage time so I negotiated with the "boss" to take them on a 'field trip'. The Institute didn't have a bus so we had to use our own vehicles for the excursion. The last words from the "boss" were, "It's a field study, not a piss up. I don't need any heat from the Minister about drunk/injured students". Yeah!! Tell that to a dozen twenty plus year olds bursting at the seams experiencing life.

Grilli Wines, located a short drive out of Adelaide, was run by an exceptionally gifted and innovative wine maker, Joe Grilli. At the time, he was experimenting with "Amarone", a process involving drying selected harvested grapes layered on racks under the grape vines from which they were harvested (or in a shed during wet weather), a traditional method of making wines in Italy, his family's country of origin.

The principle in this method is to dehydrate the grapes to increase the sugar

trivia@thebowlo

Devised by the Nimbin Bowlo's Quizmaster, Marty

Questions

1. Who is Australia's Foreign Minister?
2. The Dardenelles is a body of water in which country?
3. By what name do we often know the Fylfot?
4. Name the band that first recorded Black Magic Woman?
5. What two drugs make up a classic Speedball?
6. What country would you be in if you rented a houseboat in Srinagar?
7. Name the Middle Eastern nuclear power that receives over 3 billion dollars in military aid from the US each year?
8. How many stars are there on the Chinese flag?
9. What metal is the best conductor of both heat and electricity?
10. Which sporting club is the most valuable in the world (by share price).

- Answers
1. Julie Bishop. Two bishops and an abbot.
 2. Turkey. Previously known as the Hellespont, the Dardanelles lies alongside the Gallipoli Peninsula.
 3. The swastika. The name "swastika" comes from the Sanskrit "Svastika" meaning "it is good". Hitler appropriated it for his own ends and it's about time it was taken back.
 4. Fleetwood Mac. Although popularised by Santana the song was written by Peter Green, guitarist with the original Fleetwood Mac. Of course this was back when the band was a real blues/rock band and not the middle of the road pop outfit they ended up as.
 5. Morphine (sometimes Heroin) and Cocaine. The morphine stones you stupid and the coke keeps you awake to enjoy it (or so I have been reliably informed).
 6. India. Srinagar is in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Now the war with Pakistan has settled down a bit tourism is returning to Kashmir. Yeh hah! Always wanted to go there.
 7. Israel. Nuff said.
 8. 5 stars. One large and four small. The large star represents the Chinese people (as represented by the Communist Party) and the four smaller ones the four social classes defined by Chairman Mao - the working class, the peasantry, the urban petty bourgeoisie, and the national bourgeoisie.
 9. Silver. Gold is often used in electronics due to its better corrosion resistance.
 10. Manchester United. According to Forbes, earlier this year MU became the first sporting club in the world to be worth more than \$3 billion.

concentration, and therefore the final alcohol content of the finished wine, without the ripening process on the vine which would alter the natural acidity and flavour profile of the fruit. Joe was also experimenting with making wines from grapes spread out on racks which were then inoculated with *Botrytis cinerea* mould spores in a temperature and humidity controlled dark room. His vineyards were located in a hot/dry district which wasn't suitable for the natural development of *Botrytis*, where it occurs naturally in the cooler/early morning dew conditions of other regions, but he wanted to make some of the unctuous, complex style of sweet white table wine similar to Sauternes. Regardless of his innovative approaches, all of Joe's wines were impeccably balanced, free of fault and demonstrated the regional and varietal characteristics of the fruit from his vineyard.

Joe was rapt about the idea of future hospitality managers (hello wine list) coming to his winery, not to mention he's an exceptionally hospitable person by nature and he went full on for these

people. After a detailed and informative tour of the winery vintage operations we went into one of his underground cellars to a long table of smoked fish caught locally in the Gulf of St Vincent, blue swimmer crabs, home made salami, prosciutto and goats cheese, grilled Mediterranean vegetables, Osso Bucco and liqueur muscat raisin flan for dessert, which were all accompanied by wines he'd selected from his cellar of selected and aged wines. I don't know of any place on earth where you can get this level of education without maxing the Visa.

Of course, by now everyone's loaded and ready to party and I'm wondering how I can get these people, remotely sober, back to the Institute. On the return trip I spotted a go cart race track and took a hard left turn and naturally everyone followed. I hired out a cart for everyone and we all went racing for an hour; uber adrenaline, some physical application/concentration and more fun. Try doing that today with a bunch of students and see how long it takes for a dismissal and a summons for a court appearance.



Pirates of Nimbin

Talking like a pirate is fun. It's really that simple.

International Talk Like A Pirate Day was celebrated by infants students at Nimbin Central School again this year, with a total of \$270 raised in support of childhood cancer support services, a mountain of treasure for such a small school.

The children raised money swashbuckling their way around the school, stealing hearts and singing sea shanties for loot.

Old Red Beard himself, Captain Morgan stopped in to say ahoy to his maties and thank them for plundering for such a worthy cause.

Eleven years since its global launch, International Talk Like A Pirate Day (19th September) now claims over a billion annual observants, which the US originators, John Baur and Mark Summers say, staggers them.

They say, "The point is, there is no point. And that's what's fun about Talk Like a Pirate Day specifically, and talking like a pirate in general."

Arrr. www.talklikeapirate.com/piratehome.html

Connecting the world through story



Northern Rivers writer, teacher and now independent publisher, Amanda Doran has launched PaperBarkTree – "A place where stories grow" – an independent ethical publishing platform created to provide a local and global voice for young writers.

PaperBarkTree aims to publish Australian children's stories with accompanying professionally-developed strategic teaching resources. The 'Branching Out' extension activity has a different environmental topic each month, and provides a interface for young writers to publish and share

their short stories or poems online. The aim is to link local stories with others from around the world, giving children an opportunity to learn from, support, understand and inspire each other.

Amanda has been a central activist within the local anti-CSG movement – as one of the main organisers and producers of the 7000-people strong Rally and Rock the Gate concert in Lismore, May 2012. With the launch of PaperBarkTree as a new outlet for environmental education and awareness, she aims to foster critical thinkers with compassionate hearts.

One of her first stories is called 'Mum, What's Happening To Our Water?' This is 9-year old Amy's story about how CSG mining has affected her family and community. Amanda Doran researched this story with the real people who live side-by-side with CSG. The child's perspective gives us a new and compelling angle on the effects of the industrialisation of rural Australia by the CSG Industry.

The story is available in eBook format for \$3, cheaper than a cup of coffee.

Drew Hutton, from Lock The Gate Alliance has written the foreword to Amanda's book and 25% of net profit from the sale of this book will go to Lock The Gate Alliance.

There are a number of other stories in development, and these are listed on the PaperBarkTree website: www.paperbarktree.com.au See also Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Paperbarktree

ASTRO FORECASTS BY TINA MEWS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS

October

Since the last equinox the Sun has travelled through Libra, the sign concerned with establishing balance and harmony. In ancient Egypt the 'Scales' were seen as a symbol of justice, and used to weigh the souls of the dead against the 'Feather of Truth' as part of a ritual for gaining entrance to the underworld. However, Libra is a relatively new sign reflecting the emergence of our reasoning faculty in late antiquity. We moved from an instinctive sense of justice – 'an eye for an eye' – to thinking objectively and co-operatively. The move from 'me first' to 'we' required the ability and willingness to put values and ideals above basic instincts and emotions. Librans set high ideals for themselves and others and like to be seen as civilized and refined human beings. They have strong views about justice and fairness. However, they become uncomfortable when emotional issues are stirred because of their unpredictable and often unfair nature. This is why Librans can be very unrealistic about relationships. The Libran downside is indecisiveness and procrastination because of endlessly weighing both sides of the scales. In a birth chart, the Sun sign indicates the lessons that we have to master. Learning to reach and maintain equilibrium is truly an art and Librans feel most at ease when they can use their many talents for mastering this lifelong task.

The Libra New Moon on October 5 does not promise an easy and balanced blend of energies because of its alignment with the stressful Uranus/Pluto configuration. Since 2010 the transformational planets Uranus and Pluto are forming a long-lasting square (until 2016) which has synchronised with many deep sweeping changes on the collective as well as personal level. In connection with this New Moon it could mean that we might feel a strong need for a new perspective in our partnerships and alliances that allow for greater independence. Long-standing themes of imbalance and injustice have to be addressed. Jupiter, the planetary principle for greater understanding and wisdom also is involved. Expanding our level of tolerance will help with managing any crisis. However, on the negative Jupiter's influence can lead to ego-inflation and fixed opinions that can conclude in pre-mature judgments and 'pre-emptive strikes'.

The Full Moon in Aries on October 19 is a Lunar eclipse. A lunar eclipse is an extra



powerful Full Moon. The Earth's shadow passes between the Moon and the Sun inhibiting the Moon (unconscious) to reflect the light from the Sun (consciousness). Thus a lunar eclipse can trigger suppressed feelings and fears. On the Libra/Aries axis concerns of assertiveness (Aries) versus co-dependency (Libra) or autonomy (Aries) versus co-operation (Libra) are activated. We might have to change or adjust our contracts with others to achieve a new balance that works for everybody. We might have to break new ground and be willing to explore unheard of options. Neptune and Mars are in opposition on that day, indicating that we might want to act (Mars) on our ideals (Neptune). We could feel drawn between our assertive self (Mars) and the side which wants to dream (Neptune). On the positive, we can integrate the two sides with creativity and compassion; on the negative Neptune/Mars can bring on the victim/persecutor drama. Then, two days later we enter the last Mercury retrograde phase of the year (October 21 – November 10). Mercury, the messenger of the Gods will spend an extended time in the sign of Scorpio. Like always, when Mercury goes retrograde, we need to be aware of possible communication problems, misunderstandings, computer problems or delays regarding our travel plans. We can use this period constructively by looking at whatever does not work in our lives and address problems that we did not have the courage to look at before. It is now the time to bring through the necessary changes and address deep seated problems. Scorpio is a water sign and ultimately an impersonal force. Healing and purging is the evolutionary task of this sign. There might be lots of movement under the surface and hidden from view. So let's remain vigilant and not take anything for granted!

For Personal Readings, Transits and Life cycles contact Tina on 6689-7413 or 0457-903-957, via e-mail: star-loom@hotmail.com or visit my web page: <http://nimbin-starloom.com.au>

Astrology Classes at Lillfield Community Centre:
Wednesdays: *Advanced Astrology:* "Rulership, disposition and reception: understanding the deeper relationship between planets". 10am–1 pm, starts October 16

Thursdays: *Astrology for Beginners:* "The astrological aspects: Weaving the pattern of the chart". 10 am–1pm, starts October 17. Please contact me for further details.

Aries

This could be a potentially difficult period for you fiery Rams. Possible disruptions or surprises in your relationship dynamics might upset the peace at home and you might have to deal with forces out of your control. Keep a low profile and avoid acting on impulse. Instead, try to see the other person's point of view just once more!

Taurus

There is so much going on around you and you might try to keep the peace under all circumstances. This is not a bad time for retreating into your own inner world and reviewing your contracts with others. Note the areas in your life that need purging, healing and changing.

Gemini

Forces out of your control seem to disrupt your need for enterprising and personal self-expression. Instead of feeling frustrated and putting up resistance look at the situation as an opportunity for growth. Go with the flow and allow your values to be transformed and refined in the process

Cancer

The developmental growth that you have experienced since July needs to be contemplated and consolidated now. Instead of looking outside, change direction and turn within for greater understanding and deeper insight. Try to incorporate other people's values into your life without diminishing your individuality.

Leo

There is a lot going on in your neighbourhood right now and your insights and opinions are a very valuable contribution. Share your knowledge and insights with others through writing, educating and communicating. You might know how to transform weak spots in failing systems and improve daily living conditions.

Virgo

Right now you might feel like creating more stability and security in your life trying to stay away from potentially intense and critical situations or people. However, something deep in your soul is stirring and wants to be heard and seen. Live your true values and beliefs even if it might upset the image of the 'humble Virgo'.

Libra

This is not an easy time for relationships. You might feel like pulling away from old dependency patterns which you have outgrown. Know how to nurture yourself especially if you find that you are compulsively giving too much to others. You are the one who needs more independence and space for your own soul growth.

Scorpio

Saturn, the archetypal principle of matter, structure and time, entered your sun sign about a year ago and will remain until the end of 2014. This is your time of letting go of a few illusions in exchange for a more realistic understanding of yourself and the world around you. Use this energy for rebuilding and restoring a new balance in your immediate environment.

Sagittarius

Your mission right now seems to revolve around establishing a balance between being part of a team and contributing to your community versus experimenting with your talents and boosting your creative self-expression. Qualities which have been lying dormant are ready to come alive now. However, try not to be careless with your resources.

Capricorn

This has been a very intense time for many Capricorns. Consciously or subconsciously you have been trying to pull away from too many family commitments. Sudden changes at the home front might affect your life direction now. Search for a new perspective in your relationships that permits both of you the freedom to grow.

Aquarius

Right now you are seeking your spiritual path and trying to synthesise your own individual philosophy. New data is entering your mind which can spontaneously change your thinking patterns. It is also a good time to work through unfinished business from the past because a new perspective is emerging.

Pisces

There is a need to clarify or redefine your personal values and those that you share with others. You might fear that too much earth-bound structure is limiting you and prefer not to take on any responsibility on that level. Try not to be too fanatic or unrealistic about your aspirations; you could be overdoing things.