



*Bree Bullock*

Bree Bullock is a local independent singer/songwriter who has just returned from a two week east coast tour promoting her new album *All My Shipwrecks* which went to number 6 on the iTunes Singer/Songwriter charts just a couple weeks ago.

Bree has had a great deal of success on the tour, and is now back in her local area playing a few shows. She will play Sphinx Rock Café on Sunday 2nd March at 2pm.

Check out her music at: [www.facebook.com/breebullockmusic](http://www.facebook.com/breebullockmusic)

## Gatecrashers kill vibe

by Biskit

On 21st December, Jaaleekaay and the Durga Babies held a Solstice gig at the Tuntable Hall. The Durga Babies performed an excellent first set of ballads and chill numbers that displayed to perfection the soulful vocal blend from Timmy and Michael.

Jaaleekaay then exploded onto stage with the passionate vocals, and virtuosity on the kora from the two Gambian musicians, the stunning guitar support from local legend Steve Berry, and the lyrical and elegant Claise Pearce on violin. Special guest Triple Nip added some raps and rhymes, and the audience was jumping.

The final set, with the Durgas at their funky swinging best, topped off a fabulous evening with an incredible hot jam with all the musos there that night. A little piece of musical magic happened and a good time was had by all.

The only spoiler for a fantastic night was learning later that more than half of the audience present had

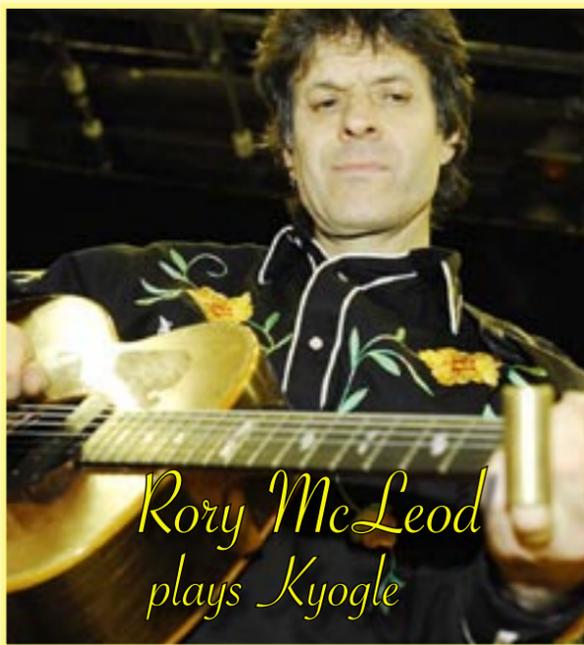
decided that the entry fee, \$15 concession / \$20 full price – about \$2 per musician – was too expensive, and that they would crash the gig, helped by others there who kept opening other doors and letting people in.

These were not teenagers, but adults in their 30s, who displayed a total lack of respect for the artists who gave us such a fantastic gig for less than what most people would spend in an evening at a bar.

This has led to the organisers losing money on the night, and at this point it is unlikely that they will organise another gig in the future at a local venue, given the unviable nature of doing a gig for people who don't want to pay for it.

It is attitudes like those demonstrated by some members of the audience on that night that kill the live music scene and our chance to experience such great quality artists in our local venues.

So next time you feel like ripping off a muso for your good time, you should follow the words of the Angels fans: "No way, Get F#\*^!d, F#\*^ Off."



*Rory McLeod plays Kyogle*

The Kyogle Acoustic Music Society is thrilled to announce two upcoming shows in March and April.

International troubadour Rory McLeod will perform at the Kyogle Memorial institute Hall on Sunday 23rd March, presenting works from his *Swings and Roundabouts* album.

Rory is well-known in his native UK and across the globe as a champion of the working-class, and for speaking out on environmental and social issues. His current album delves into the personal realm, of matters raw, rich, deep and resonant.

Doors open at 6pm, and pre-show entertainment will be provided by local tunesmith Mish at the Box & Dice Café, directly across the road from the KMI hall, who will also cater for refreshments during intermission.

Rory's show is BYO and tickets are \$20 / \$15 KAMS members / \$10 youth, with young people under 16 entering free and family tickets available for \$50. Tickets at: [trybooking.com/EFNJ](http://trybooking.com/EFNJ), Macdades, or at the door.

The KAMS April show is the now-annual Old Time and Bluegrass Jamboree, with national bluegrass award-winners The Company headlining at the Kyogle Showground. MC Gareth Bjaaland will take the reins for a night that features local luminaries The Barkers Vale Brothers, Black Train and Ruthie-Ma-Toothie.

Contact KAMS co-ordinator Kym Watling on 0409-534-233 or email: [kams.kyogle@gmail.com](mailto:kams.kyogle@gmail.com) for more details.



**Guitar Orchestra, anyone?**

Retired full-time classical and Flamenco guitar teacher/composer, 74-year old Bob Oort says the idea for the Nimbin Guitar Orchestra idea just "surfaced".

"Like everything else, the beginning comes out of thin air," he said.

Now he is putting out the call for people to participate in the building of a unique performing orchestra consisting of Nimbin and surrounds local members only, and his reason is compelling:

"There never was a doubt in my life that harmony and rhythm is fundamental to life and as such the only universal language, a language without borders, verbal languages barred, the only clear means of communication."

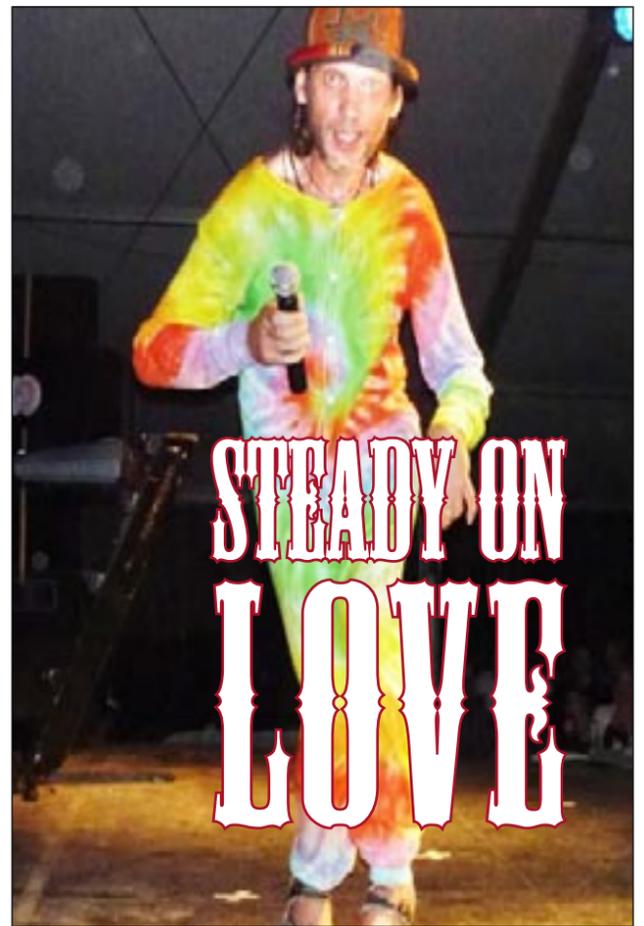
More than 20 people attended an information night at the end of January, agreeing to meet on Thursdays 6-8pm, at Birth

& Beyond, sponsored by Stringworks. The weekly rehearsals will provide learners and performers alike with the facility to share their interest in multicultural music.

Bob was pleased with the level of interest, adding, "I would like to see interest from flute and violin players to add to the orchestra, which I hope will grow to a membership of around 40."

The Nimbin Guitar Orchestra offers free classical, flamenco, latin, jazz and blues coaching for its members at weekly rehearsals. If you can play most basic guitar chords and would like to be part of a professionally trained multicultural performance orchestra, whatever your age or playing level, all enquiries are welcome.

Contact Bob Oort on 6688-8264 or visit: [www.nimbinguitarorchestra.com](http://www.nimbinguitarorchestra.com)



**STEADY ON LOVE**

You are most warmly invited to Billen Cliffs to enjoy a night of laughter and tears on Valentine's Day, with legendary comedian Steady Eddy (pictured).

Diagnosed with cerebral palsy when he was nine months old, humor has always been a huge part of Steady Eddy's life as a coping mechanism to tackle life's little hurdles.

When asked about not learning to walk until he was five, Steady shrugs his good shoulder and says, "I was just pacing myself."

In 1992, Steady Eddy transformed his CP into an asset rather than a liability, appearing on the *Midday Show* with Ray Martin and *Tonight Live* with Steve Vizard.

Over the next decade he continued to perform to national audiences on TV, stage and, in 2004, appeared in the Aussie Movie *Under the Radar*.

After *Under the Radar* had wrapped, his life was a mess. Steady had always

been alternative, but now even more so. He got his life together, stopped burning the candle at both ends, and started to be self-aware.

Steady will be supported by the sweet twanging of troubadour Chris Aronsten's tuneful strings, as well as a host of Billen performers, including philosopher and columnist S. Sorensen.

Billen's culinary legend Jenny Moore will prepare a scrumptious dinner, with chai and cakes to follow.

So bring your nearest and dearest to enjoy the special cabaret-style evening and support the continuing work on the beautiful Billen Hall.

The Billen community look forward to hosting you on this very special night: 14th February from 7pm at Billen Community Hall, Martin Road, Larnook. Enjoy a night out without the kids – there will be adult humour.

Tickets are \$25 dinner and show / \$18 show only. For bookings please contact Ajita on 0403-988-682 or: [ajitamaria@yahoo.com.au](mailto:ajitamaria@yahoo.com.au)

**Bob Oort**  
Multicultural Guitarist/Composer

**SOLO GUITAR CONCERT**

**WED FEBRUARY 26, 7pm**

**BIRTH and BEYOND, CULLEN ST NIMBIN**  
(Between Apothecary & Environment Centre)

ADMISSION by donation towards the establishment and continuation of the Nimbin Guitar Orchestra

Tickets at the door or book at 66 888 264

the NIMBIN GUITAR ORCHESTRA  
Sponsored by **STRINGWORKS**  
3/45 Cullen St, Nimbin

[www.nimbinguitarorchestra.com](http://www.nimbinguitarorchestra.com)

## Summer tunes

Georgina Pollard will play a set of Summer tunes and grooving music at the Sphinx Rock Cafe, Kyogle Road, Mt Burrell at 2pm on Sunday 16th February, and at La Vida Bar and Restaurant in Keen Street Lismore at 7pm on Friday 21st February.

A vocalist, pianist and songwriter, Georgina is a Dolphin Award winner, a MusicOz Awards finalist and is also a professional Vocal Coach based in Lismore.

Her new gospel single *I Will Sing* (\$1) and latest 6-track EP, *How to Film a Feast* (\$10) co-produced



with jazz guitarist Jim Kelly, are available on Bandcamp, with 50% of all sales donated to The Winsome and Lismore Soup Kitchen.

These gigs are part of Georgina's summer mini-tour, and she is also playing gigs in the Gold Coast and Brisbane during March.

For more info visit: [www.georginapollard.com](http://www.georginapollard.com)



## Gypsy Delights at Sphinx Rock

The Gold Coast's fiery gypsy and reggae singer, Felicity Lawless, sweeps into Sphinx Rock Café on Sunday 9th February at 2pm to perform her musical delights.

She will be joined by legendary guitarist, Scott French (A French Butler Called Smith and Taylor) for an afternoon of musical mastery and songs of the soul.

Lawless fuses world music elements with reggae and soul, delivered with guitar virtuosity and soaring vocal melodies. Her performance at last year's Nimbin Mardi Grass whipped the audience into a dancing frenzy, and her 2013 release 'Rainspeak' was met with rave reviews and landed her shows at many major Gold Coast festivals.

Her intimate shows are an uplifting journey of the heart and are beautifully complimented by Scott French's breathtaking skill and sensitivity.

It promises to be a magical afternoon at Sphinx Rock Café not to be missed. For more information, visit: [www.felicitylawless.com](http://www.felicitylawless.com)

## The Channon Folk Club



Paddy Curley with Helen Martin

by Ray Flanagan (Rayzor)

The Channon Folk Club open mic has had a two-month long 'holiday' and is ready to restart on Sunday, 23rd February. We had a great run with the weather last year with all sessions being outdoors – let's hope for similar luck in 2014.

Local guitarist/folk singer, Helen Martin will be our opening act this month. Everyone is welcome to come along and listen in or perform. And it's not just folk music – we are well known for the mix of musical styles and genres and even poetry and acrobatics that we showcase.

Starting time is 3pm during the daylight saving months. Hope to see you (or hear you) there.

## Women rock on IWD

The North Coast Lesbian Alliance will be celebrating International Women's Day, Saturday 8th March, with a fundraising dance party at Ewingsdale Hall from 7pm.

This important day recognising women's rights has been celebrated for over 100 years and takes many forms. Rallies, marches, parties and parades are held all over the world to commemorate woman's struggle for an equal standing in the world.

IWD was born out of the fight for equal voting and work rights for women and the right to education, holding public office and an end to discrimination. It is an anniversary to review, re-state and act on the political,

economic and social rights of all women.

The right to love who we love, and to have the freedom to express that love is still a freedom not all women in the world enjoy.

We invite you to come celebrate IWD with us, and give thanks to those strong women who have paved the way for all women to be strong, resilient and hopeful of a world in which women's rights are fostered, celebrated and nurtured.

All women are invited to come celebrate, party and dance. Ewingsdale Hall is in William Flick Lane.

For more info, contact 0408-199-687, email: [ncla@bigpond.com](mailto:ncla@bigpond.com)



## Blue Moon Cabaret

For more than 20 years, the Nimbin School of Arts (NSA) has been producing a series of popular and often outstanding Blue Moon Cabarets, both as a grand showcase of the performance arts and as major fund raising events for the School of Arts. The last Cabaret in November 2013 was widely received as one of the best ever, and it's certainly created a hard act to follow with the first show planned for this year.

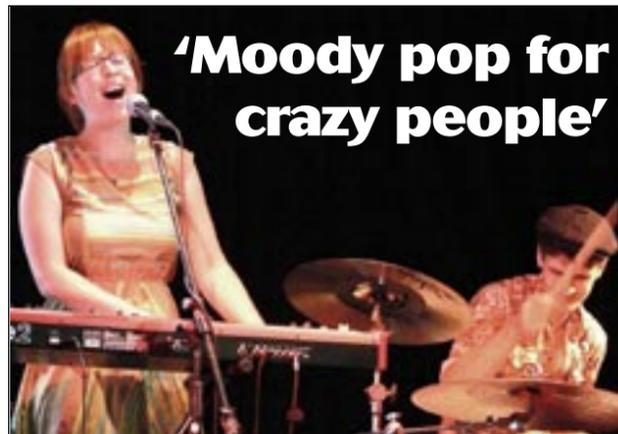
Nonetheless, the NSA has scheduled a stunning programme for the Cabaret on Saturday 15th March. The ever popular globe-trotting duo, the Hussy Hicks (pictured) will be performing, along with the Hottentots trio featuring Carl Cleves and Parissa Boas who have both recently released solo albums.

Singers Louie and Patrick, who were a big hit at the last

show, will be back again, along with singer-songwriters Sara Tindley, Alisha Todd and Kerryanne Cox.

Comedian Mandy Nolan will feature, along with Sydney performance poet Tug Dumbly and Nimbin's own Christine Strelan. Just returned from shows in Germany will be acrobats Darcy Grant and Emma McGovern, plus the Gypsy Rose Soiree dancers gone Bollywood, guitarist Bevan Cuthbertson and even more.

The Blue Moon Cabarets are BIG sellout shows, and patrons need to book early to avoid disappointment. Ticket and table reservations can be made at Perceptio Bookshop (phone 6689-1766). The show is fully catered by Radical Fairies with dinner available from 6.30pm. The Cabaret is licensed (no BYO). Tickets are \$30/\$25 conc.



There was a nice surprise at Nimbin Hotel on Australia Day – a pop-up gig by the Newcastle-based Crazy Old Maurice.

Lead vox, keys and songwriter Caitlin O'Reilly and her partner, drummer Tim Evans, were without bassist Mike Collins, but still produced remarkable lounge/groove/pop tunes.

They have released a four-track CD sampler, and have an album release planned for the end of March.

The name? It's from a line in Disney's Beauty and the Beast.



The Julius Hofstetter Quartet is the first exciting gig of 2014 for the Lismore Jazz Club on Sunday 23rd February at the Lismore City Bowling Club from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is \$10 for members / students, \$15 for non members.

Julius Hofstetter (pictured) has been teaching saxophone, clarinet and recorder at the Northern Rivers Conservatorium since 2002 and has become a favourite of the Lismore Jazz Club.

He will be performing



with Kyle Watson on Piano, Jason Banister on Drums and George Urbaszek on Bass. These musicians will add their own personal touch to the music of Miles, Coltrane, Shorter and present some of the beautiful melodies found in the old standards.

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- A La Carte Menu with many Vegan and Gluten Free options
- Local Certified Organic Coffee made with Cert. Organic Milk
- Eat inside or Alfresco • Groups catered for

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50 Cullen Street Nimbin – phone 6689-1445

3220 Kyogle Rd, Mt Burrell NSW 2484 P (02) 6679 7118 [www.sphinxrockcafe.com](http://www.sphinxrockcafe.com)

### Sunday Gig Guide

**February \*2pm start**

**9th Felicity Lawless**  
Fiery flamenco and bohemian singer, Felicity stimulates the senses and elevates the soul with music fusing Gypsy, world, rock and folk

**16th Georgina Pollard**  
Lismore singer/songwriter and Dolphin award winner plays some summer tunes

**23rd Andy Jans Brown**  
Blending grooves with a pop sense of catchy melodies

**March 2nd Bree Bullock**  
Best described as a big heart with a guitar – folk, roots and soul

## Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

### February Gigs

Thursday 6th	6.30pm	Bill Jacobi
Friday 7th	7.30pm	Nitestar
Saturday 8th	6pm	TBC
Sunday 9th	5pm	TBC
Thursday 13th	6pm	Kooyeh Reggae
Friday 14th	7.30pm	Thorazoo
Sat 15th	6pm	White Heat
Sun 16th	5pm	Method
Thursday 20th	6pm	Mecca-Mecca
Friday 21st	7.30pm	Desret Blues Cartel
Saturday 22nd	6.30pm	TBC
Sunday 23rd	5pm	Azadoota
Thursday 27th	6pm	Neptunes Garden
Friday 28th	7.30pm	Sabotage

**MARCH**

Saturday 1st	6.30pm	Mecca-Mecca
Sunday 2nd	5pm	Brommers

All Gigs are Free of Charge

**JOKER POKER EVERY THURSDAY EVENING**

*Hummingbird Bistro*  
Bistro Specials: Mon \$10 pasta; Thurs \$10 steak 250g

**Matilda Blue**  
 **Nimbin Servo**

- Fuel, oils, automotive needs, ice, gas refills & Swapa-gas
- Drinks, icecreams, bread & milk, newspapers, cigarettes
- Stock food, horse & cattle food, lucerne
- Pet food, frozen pet meat and bones

Open 7 days: Mon - Fri 7am - 6pm, Sat 8am - 6pm, Sun 8am - 5pm

**Shop & GO**

**Blue Knob Farmers Market**

Fresh local produce for a sustainable future

- Self-sufficiency workshops
- Community Grain Mill
- Local & visiting musicians

Corner of Blue Knob & Lillian Rock Roads  
 Only 8km North of Nimbin

Saturday 9am - 1pm  
 Blue Knob Hall

Enquiries contact Peter  
 0403-408-087 or email:  
[blueknobfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:blueknobfarmersmarket@gmail.com)

80 Cullen Street 6689-0199

**NIMBIN CAFE**  
 .. the OASIS of ..  
**NIMBIN COFFEE SHOP**

A TASTE OF ART

[www.blueknobgallery.com](http://www.blueknobgallery.com)

**blueknob hall gallery**

Open Thursday to Sunday 10am - 4pm  
 719 Blue Knob Road, Lillian Rock Ph: 6689 7449  
 GALLERY • CAFE

**NextMarket**  
 9th February  
 8.30am - 4pm

**Band of the Day:**  
**Black Boi**  
 Busker Stage: Luke Vassalla

**Charity of the Day:**  
 Tunttable Creek Hall / Landcare  
 Enquiries: 6688-6433

**"Make It, Bake It, Grow It"**

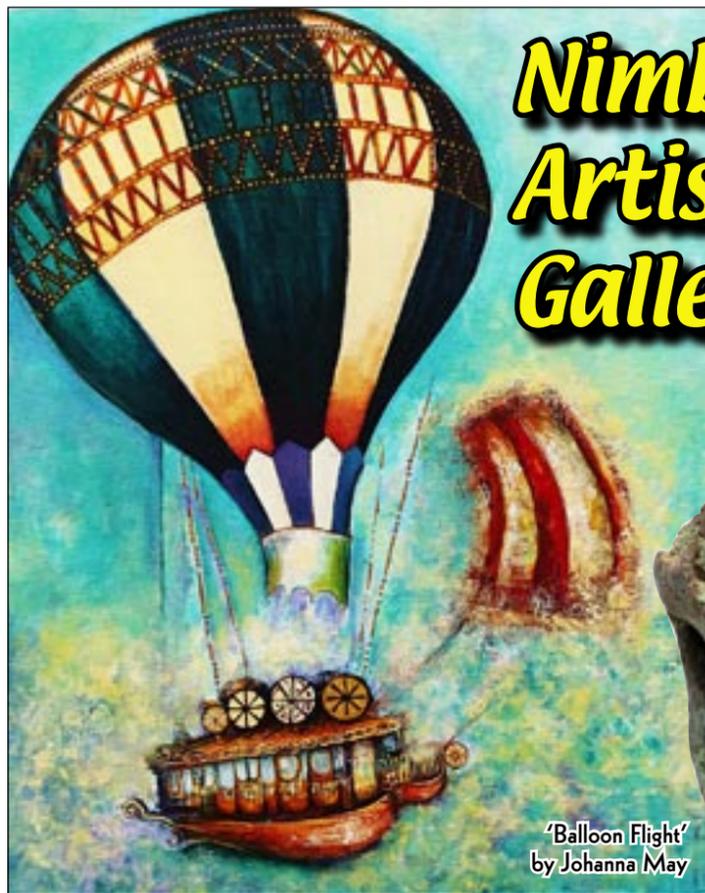
**The Contented Tummy**

**THE NAME SAYS IT ALL**

*"If you don't eat here, you'll miss the best food in Nimbin"*

Your hosts  
 Carolyne and Garry

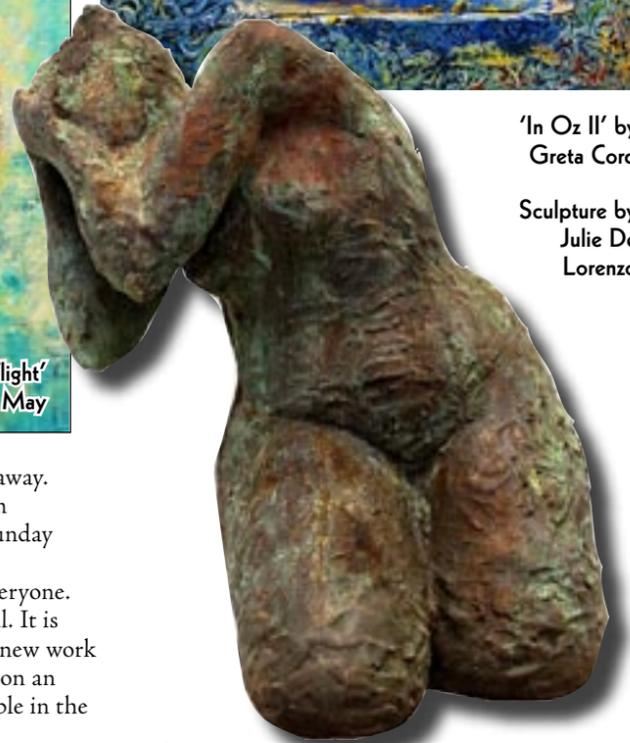
Shop 2, 54 Cullen Street



# Nimbin Artists Gallery



'In Oz II' by Greta Cord



Sculpture by Julie De Lorenzo

by Peter P.

Here we are again: another year and more fine art on display at the Nimbin Artists Gallery. I'm in the gallery behind the desk as I write and have received numerous favourable comments today from locals and travellers confirming this.

The gallery has had a freshen-up for the New Year with a rehang in late January, so there's new work from a number of our regular contributors. And we have some pieces from Greta Cord, a travelling French artist who is our current guest artist.

The very popular display from Nimbin High School students is still gracing our entrance hall, so don't miss it. They have given us work in a number of mediums which have attracted many positive comments. A good indicator of what's to come from our emerging artists!

And, heads up all artists, the Autumn Arts Extravaganza (AAE)

is less than two months away.

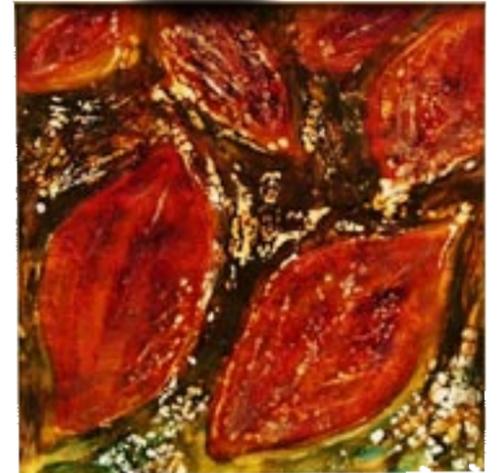
This year it will run from Saturday 5th April to Sunday 27th April, inclusive.

The AAE is open to everyone. You don't have to be local. It is free to exhibit and is for new work only. Further details are on an information sheet available in the gallery.

There is no application form, but we do need a proposal from artists intending to submit work for consideration. This needs to detail number of pieces, medium, size and price. Photos of your work are a help. And a bio is required, especially for artists not known to us.

As always, the Nimbin Artists Gallery curates the exhibition and decides what is and what isn't hung. This is definitely not an easy job and we ask for everyone's acceptance of our decision.

We're looking forward to another successful AAE filled with inspiring art.



'Autumn' by Pauline Ahern

## Blue Knob Gallery

*The Journey* is the title of the first exhibition for 2014 at Blue Knob Hall Gallery.

There are many journeys we take in our lives; the one that the outer world moves us literally from one place to another or a deeply personal inner experience.

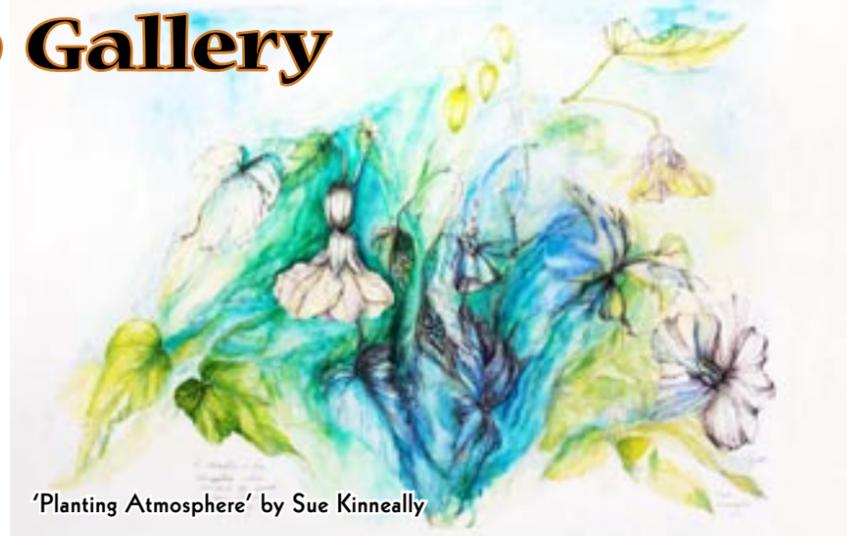
It can also be the path that a small seed takes on its way to maturity. There are many ways to express the small daily journeys or the journeys of a lifetime.

The exhibition will be opening on Friday 14th February at 6.30pm, with a set meal available at \$15 mains and \$4 desserts. If you would like to have a meal bookings are essential, please phone the gallery on 6689-7449 or email: [bkhg@aapt.net.au](mailto:bkhg@aapt.net.au)

The exhibition will run until Sunday 6th April.

### Blue Knob Hall Gallery & Cafe

The year for Blue Knob Hall Gallery & Cafe has started with a bang, or more literally a concrete slab out the front of the Hall. With some great organisation by the Blue Knob Farmers Market and Blue Knob Hall Gallery committees, the slab was poured on the hottest day of the week and a combined



'Planting Atmosphere' by Sue Kinneally

team from the BKFM and BKHG had a work day that produced a great new surface for the Farmers Market and Gallery functions. Many thanks go to Darryl who contributed his time and expertise to oversee the slab pouring, and all the volunteers who contributed to the day. A colourful mosaic edging was laid with the help of Michelle McQuay and Jeni Kendell who oversaw that part of the project.

**The Cafe** has been run by volunteers, co-ordinated by Heather Kimber for a few months now, which has led to a boost in funds and has enabled these

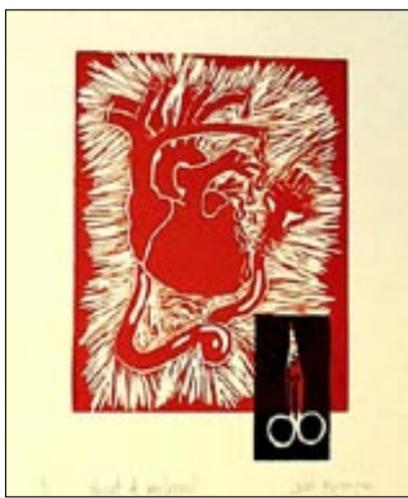
projects to go ahead. We are now looking forward to having the café verandah extension finished in the next couple of months and then following up with the completion of the ceramic/ artists studio over the next year.

### Artist & Friends lunch

The Artists and Friends Lunches are held on the last Thursday of each month. The next one is on Thursday 27th February. Cost is \$15 per person, which includes a set vegetarian mains and a selection of desserts.

Please phone the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you're planning to come.

## 'A stitch in time'



Of body and mind, the heart and the hand – A journey through the creative fire.

*A stitch in time* is Jeht Burgoyne's debut solo exhibition currently showing at the Serpentine Gallery. It tells a woven tale of creativity and passion flowing from the love and losses of a tailoress.

Jeht Burgoyne has been involved in the arts and fashion for over twenty years. From studying and working in the field of fashion, she then went on to complete a diploma in Fine Arts, and last year graduated a Degree in Visual Arts.

The exhibition can be described as being surreal, ethereal and confronting, with sexual undercurrents.

The main body of work will showcase a collection of over thirty pieces, and also on display will be a collection of Jeht's selected works. The works are produced in mediums of paintings, sculpture and printmaking, and all artwork is available for sale at the gallery.

*A stitch in time* runs until 21st February. Gallery opening times are Monday-Saturday, 10am to 5.30pm.



## Even the cleaner is an artist

by Ruth Tsimbinis,  
Roxy Gallery director

*Optasy* is the first exhibition for 2014 to be installed at the Roxy Gallery after a short closure of the gallery for a spruce-up after a successful 2013, which saw over 6000 people view exhibitions at the Roxy Gallery.

A lot of feet walking over the floor – that equates to a fair bit of carpet cleaning.

It seems very appropriate after all this for the gallery's first exhibition to be by a local artist, David Brink, who also been volunteering at the gallery for over four years, undertaking the regular cleaning of the space.

David has entitled his exhibition *Optasy* to describe the nature of his style of work, portraying the Optical and the Fantasy of natural themes through the use of colour, composition and brushwork.

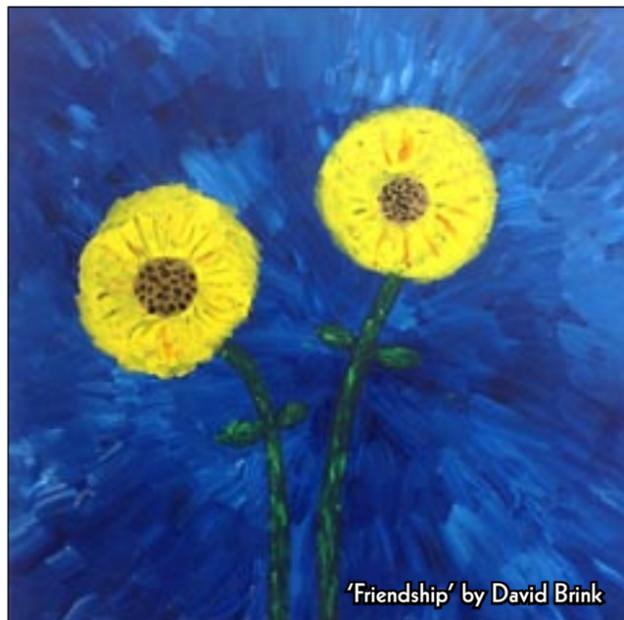
The body of work on exhibit is a collection of paintings, drawings, photography and sculpture. In his work, David explores the notion of fantasy and how he as an artist visualises fantasy.

For David, making art is a way for him to express his thoughts on the fantasia of nature that comes to mind, and illusion of the optical that becomes visual.

The Roxy Gallery is supported by many people within our region who volunteer their time to support the day-to-day logistics of running a gallery. David is one of the many people who give their energy to keeping this valued space open to the general public



'Sphinx of Uthun' by David Brink



'Friendship' by David Brink

and provide a venue for local artists to exhibit in.

*Optasy* will be on display from 11th February to 28th

March and all are welcome to come and meet the artists at the official opening on Friday 14th February, 6-8pm.



'Wategos 2012', photograph by Melissa Cooper

## Stepping Stones

*"I take a stone from Sydney... I leave it in Shanghai... I take a stone from Shanghai... I leave it in Nowokiewsk... I take a stone from Nowokiewsk... I leave it..."*

AñA Wojak is a Lismore-based artist. In her exhibition *Stepping Stones*, she retraces her family's journeys of migration in reverse order, following the matriachal line, weaving the journeys together with a performative gesture recorded at each site of significance.

The visual record of this relay of stones forms a litany/mantra of place-stone-hand-place: a rhythmic narrative of remembrance.

AñA Wojak's photographic essay is accompanied by the voice of her late grandmother Albina Kondratowicz, and intimate linked installations. Her father is also represented in a video performance from Lodz, Poland.

The exhibition runs from 8th February to 30th March at the Lismore Regional Gallery.

Also on show over the same period is 'The AB-sorption Method', an exhibition of works on paper and film by indigenous Lismore artist Penny Evans, and a retrospective of the landscapes of Lloyd Rees.

## Nosin' Around with PAC

### CRA-A-A-CK!

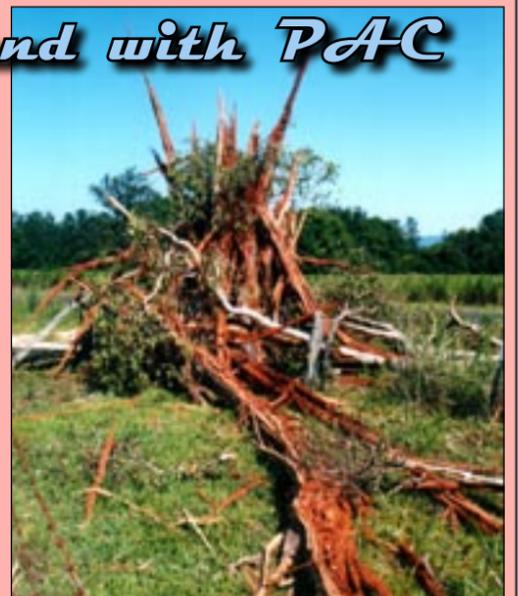
This was the last time I had a shot of a lightning strike. The photograph was taken about a decade ago. You can see the devastation a strike does to the unfortunate tree that copped one.

This tree was north of Nimbin, on the road to Gungas and Tuntable, at the gate of Phil Williams' property.

It was quite a big gum, and branches were blasted into the paddock across the road, so you would not have wanted to be walking past at that moment.

Some of the pieces of branches were very large indeed.

– PAC





## Reasons to be cheerful

Giant Russian sunflowers at Tuntable Falls school garden in January  
Photo: Sara McCafferty



## Plant of the month

by Richard Burer

Rare and endangered, the stunning and handsome *Syzygium morrei* is no longer seen in the Nimbin Valley, however there is the odd one on the upper Tweed River close to Uki to remind us that this showy red-flowered tree was once prominent throughout low altitude riverine and gully rainforest.

Also known as Coolamon, this tree, growing to 40m, is dense and evergreen and often is planted as a landscape specimen. Those who

### Coolamon *Syzygium morrei*

may have been to Centrelink in Lismore could remember the large white fruits littering the footpath and road in the late autumn months and providing excellent shade in the summer.

An excellent tree for the farm, large garden and restoration of riverine rainforest, this species is rather slow to reach maturity, but ultimately rewarding.

## NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Philippe Dupuy, President

The new year is starting off with fights on several fronts, including across the hills to Bentley where Metgasco is planning to drill for tight sand gas; in the Leard forest where clearing more than 3400 HA has been approved; the Pilliga where Santos is planning to sink more than 500 gas wells; the Great Barrier Reef with six coal ports planned as well as LNG plants on Curtis Island.

What to do? Don't let the sheer number of proposals overwhelm you. Things are not going that well for them; already there have been serious delays for their projects. In Bentley, people are organised and ready to do battle. In Leard there have been serious delays already through lock-ons, tree climbs etc... As for the Pilliga and the reefs, there are people gathering and planning, and it won't go well for them.

Please get involved, take a trip out to the Leard and the Pilliga. A few more people can make a huge difference. People coming from all over Australia will send a strong message that we are determined to stop this nonsense. A firm stand will also give great encouragement to others.

So rally, mobilise, gather, take action. Contact Nimbin Environment Centre for details of how to get there. We must stop this, for those elected to protect us and our environments have sold us out.

### Casino Environment Centre

A return to work for Casino Environment Centre saw volunteers with a full time schedule. The centre is busy helping with the Disputed Plains campaign (Bentley). We are also following through with the 'Hemp Project', the new Casino GoodTimes pages and a radio show on Richmond Valley 88.9 FM. Volunteers are needed.

### Commentary

The threat of gas mining in the Northern Rivers has been a blessing in disguise. For the first time ever, people all over the region have come together to block, thwart and stop the mining companies from turning this region into an industrial gas field. To illustrate my point I would like to recount a story, one of many, that typifies the community response to this offhand invasion.

When the Casino Environment Centre opened its doors, there were few friendly faces around, probably because the general view was that we were a bunch of trouble-makers.

However, gradually people warmed to us, and slowly more and more people began to become involved. Nevertheless we were very pleasantly surprised when a shop owner close by (who we thought didn't have a position on gas mining) told us that her husband was donating his catering van for the upcoming protest at Bentley. Needless to say, we visited him the next day to evaluate our gift and make preparations to move it.



Now this is a sizeable structure which needed a truck and machinery to lift it, and of course a place to store and work on it, and we had no budget for it as we are just able to pay for basics at CEC. After a few weeks of making enquiries and probing our network of people from various walks of life, we found many ready hands to help.

Robert gave his time and his truck, Russ and Graham helped load it with their tractor, Gordon drove the truck and others helped the best they could. After hours in the hot midday sun the 'silver bullet' (the name for this type of catering van) was on its way to Peter's place. Peter had offered to bring the structure up to scratch. He is a very skilful metal worker who has restored countless cars and trucks. He is fitting the wheels back on and renovating the kitchen. We needed sinks, a cooker, pumps and wheels etc... Within hours we received offers of a double kitchen sink, wheel hubs and tyres. Even before we moved it, we had offers of volunteer cooks and organisers.

The point of this story is to demonstrate the power of the community and its resourcefulness. It proves that this region has grown into a powerful community. It plainly shows that the likes of Metgasco have a real fight on their hands and that the government had better sit up and take notice.

It shows that more than ever we don't need a faraway administration like the State government and a powerless local council but a regional government elected by locals to care about the locals and the local environment. The new administration will be for the people with a truly democratic structure that takes into account the needs of the community however diverse. A government that is capable of listening to and respecting all points of view. A government that can be recalled midterm if over 50% of voters demand it.

The movement against gas mining in this region through Lock The Gate, GAGS, NEC and the Knitting Nannas have proved beyond doubt that there is an incredible amount of goodwill and skills that can turn this region into a fine example of community and democracy. The fight against gas companies will be won and in the process we will become an autonomous region within the Commonwealth of Australia. Viva la revolution! Long live the power of community.

## Koala Kolumn

by Lorraine Vass



Gong Xi Fa Cai! 2014 is the year of the Wooden Horse. People born under this sign are strong, stable and good decision-makers. Excellent at interacting with others, they are successful personally and professionally.

I don't know whether the Chinese astrological system allows for organisations and even if it does, Friends of the Koala was established under the sign of the Tiger in October 1986, which makes us brave, competitive, unpredictable and resilient.

I can see some of that in Friends of the Koala; certainly resilience. For an independent, regional community group to have been active for near enough to 30 years must surely demonstrate that we have bucket loads of it. There have been times in our history when decisions made have not always been popular with some members. Perhaps true to say brave to some and unpredictable to others? Competitive? Definitely - particularly in the sense of striving for excellence.

Let me tell you something about the group. Our formation was the community's response to the clearance of koala habitat which underpinned Goonellabah's development. The loss of habitat concerned a lot of people and a public meeting was held. In the early years of its existence, Friends of the Koala's mission was focussed on protecting habitat, advocacy, locally co-ordinated seed collection, food tree propagation and planting (in eleven defined areas), and education. Many of the folk who were active in those early days are still around although no longer associated with us.

So, right from the start Friends of the Koala core business was habitat, advocacy and education. It wasn't until 1989 that the licensing required to deal with sick or injured koalas was sought. That was one of the decisions that did not sit well with some members. Taking on the three "Rs" - rescue, rehabilitation and release seemed to split the group into a couple of camps for a while but it didn't interfere with the advocacy and the education. It's certainly not an issue today.

Our backyard roughly extends just a bit north of Iluka to the Queensland border and out to the Great Divide; the local government areas of Tweed, Kyogle, Byron, Lismore, Ballina and Richmond Valley with a bit of Tenterfield and Clarence Valley thrown in. Core business still centres round habitat, koala welfare, advocacy/policy reform, education and we've added research. The balance may change depending on the interest and skills of those who are prepared to take on leadership roles.

The regional canvas is important in koala conservation but I have to admit that our membership is not an even reflection of it. This year we want to strengthen our membership right across the Northern Rivers. It doesn't cost much (Ordinary -



Idris was released at the end of January, following treatment for ocular chlamydia.

Individual/Family - \$20; Concession - F/T Student/Pensioner - \$10) and we don't expect every member to be active.

However, if you are interested in finding out more about active membership, we will be holding our first Basic Training day for the year on Saturday 1st March, at SCU so watch for details.

Last month I wrote a bit about the disease issue in our northern koalas and the Chlamydia vaccine trials being conducted by the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), which could be available for use on wild populations within two years.

Another element in koala diseases research is the genome mapping project. You may remember that during 2012 a combined team from The Australian Museum and QUT announced that they had mapped the koala's genome.

In the process they found a vital missing link in their understanding of how koalas respond to infectious diseases - the koala interferon gamma (IFN-g) gene. This chemical messenger apparently plays a key role in the koala's defence against cancer, viruses (including Koala Retrovirus (KoRV)) and intracellular bacteria. Identifying these genes in the koala will be a major step in understanding why only some animals succumb to severe clinical disease and others do not.

Already a molecular blood test has been developed to measure IFN-g expression. It has been applied on a small group of wild koalas suffering ocular and reproduction tract disease at the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital. The results from these tests are providing the research team an opportunity to better understand how to successfully treat and immunise the koala population. Exciting work in progress!

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](http://www.friendsofthekoala.org) email: [info@friendsofthekoala.org](mailto:info@friendsofthekoala.org) or phone 6621-4664. You can also follow us on Facebook.

Environmental incidents, including removal of koala habitat should be reported to the 24/7 Office of Environment & Heritage Enviro Line: 131 555.

Happy koala spotting.

# Why weed?

by Triny Roe

Some argue that weeds create biomass and feed native wildlife, but is this reason enough to let them grow willy-nilly? Biomass is not the same as biodiversity. A landscape of copes of camphor, privet, giant devil fig and lantana or a creek bank lined with dead and dying trees festooned with cats claw, balloon vine or maderia does not equate to a healthy ecosystem.

Case Study: Property purchased 2010. Priced low for a quick sale... caveat emptor! The land didn't look too bad upon initial inspection. The usual suspects – lantana, crofton, camphor, some cassia. All a bit overgrown but nothing appeared too sinister.

Soon after arrival, groves of giant devil fig started appearing, rearing their spiky, large lobed, leafed heads above the lantana and crofton. Growing frighteningly quickly in the warm wet Summer, some GDF shot to a couple of metres high in a few short months.

A detailed examination revealed evidence of mature specimens which had been cut down pre-sale. Tractor slashing of lantana created an opportunity for the GDF to establish in a couple more locations. Seed may have been carried by the tractor from original areas of infestation to new ones.

A couple of large patches of giant devil fig growing in a paddock along Tuntable Creek Road and extensive roadside inhabitation, observed over ten years, demonstrated the invasive and dominating potential of this plant.

Thickets of large thorny trees were not part of the rural dream.

A search and destroy program has removed hundreds of GDF. Some were easy as they were growing from slashed



Rescued pine

stem pieces, which had taken root laying on the moist ground or still seedlings. These had not yet developed extensive root systems. Other well established individuals had extremely deep tap roots as well as extensive laterals, reaching over a metre. If the root is not completely removed, it can reshoot from fragments even more robustly, requiring extra effort (or a swab). Black plastic bag over cut stump of large specimens is being trialled.

Regular patrols remove new occurrences at the small seedling stage. Areas where mature specimens had previously existed are inspected carefully, as dozens of seedlings still germinate after rain. Birds and bats, which can handle the toxins in the fruit are still, no doubt, bringing in more seeds from fruiting trees further afield.

The understory comprised primarily crofton weed. Hand weeding this is practical as the roots are shallow. Bracken, wild raspberry and other native groundcovers quickly replaced the crofton. Satin bowerbirds now fly in to feed on the raspberries. Follow-up is still

required, as seeds will remain viable and continue to germinate for a few years.

Snip, snip with secateurs. Clearing lantana revealed a number of native trees and shrubs around the house that now flower and fruit regularly, providing food and attracting birds and other wildlife. Every fruit tree in the orchard had an accompanying lantana 'friend' climbing and weaving through the canopy. Lantana gone, the trees all produced fruit.

Lantana was breaking limbs off trees. Rainforest trees, planted many years ago along the creek, were buried under six feet of lantana. Amazingly, a few had survived years of being smothered. They can now reach their potential. Some lantana has been left to protect the steep creek bank and provide habitat in the short term, but it's regularly trimmed and nibbled back as the natural regeneration gets a go on.

If the weeding didn't happen, there would be no stepping off the veranda to enjoy this beautiful land, no growing or harvesting of food. It would be a rural nightmare!

Happy weeding.

# Emotional trauma births new technologies

by Geoff Dawe

The period that we live in is regarded as an age of rationalism because it is obviously the ascent of human rationality that created technologies.

Nevertheless, the rationality that built technologies has not been foremost in considering the reason for technology. The reason why technologies have been chosen is mostly based on emotions rather than rationality.

Since at least the beginning of the period of civilization, because of the introduction of work as a four-letter word, and, of homo sapiens' regression to hierarchical structures, child raising has become distorted. The resulting distortion has created an emotional response to the world that is not in harmony with it.

The appearance of these disharmonies is easily recognized with rationality, but it is not rationality that is uppermost in modern homo sapiens. What is uppermost is basically habit; congealed belief that has long passed its use-by date and no longer serves humanity.

Western culture, for the life of it, wants to think that technologies will take them away from toil; from the relentless need like the other animals to find food in the day without any guarantee – unlike what a fridge, Woolworths, and a load of oranges from California guarantee – that there definitely will be food today.

However, for this "guarantee" of daily supply of food courtesy of technologies, humankind unwittingly chained itself to work, the idea of separate classes of leaders and subordinates, inequalities, resource dependence and the ensuing prospects of creating a dead planet,



Madeira corms

including eventually no food.

The antidote to resource dependence and depletion that accompanies technology dependence, has always been with us but the certainty that technology was saviour, rather than another God that is no God, caused us to turn our backs on the obvious.

The joke, "What is the definition of a jumper? Something a mother tells a child to put on when the mother feels cold," is humorous because we are shocked into an awareness of the absurdity of preventing a child adapt to the cold. In this sub-tropical, probably mildest climate in the world, you do not generally see naked people in town even on a hot day. The reason why has nothing to do with rationality. It has everything to do with a congested belief that apparently thinks it better to experience a dying planet partly caused by cloth dependence, than attempt to come to terms with body and mind adaption to cold and embarrassment.

The same sort of atrophied belief can be seen directed toward madeira and cat's claw vines. Madeira corms are not first recognized as food for King parrots, and the vine growing ends as human dietary

greens. Neither are both species of vines first noticed as cormed nutrients for a sustainable gardening agriculture. Instead they are seen as part of a concreted belief since the advent of civilization, that nature has to be fought, rather than that it is the sustainer of us all.

This war against nature, carried to its full extent so far, has led to human infants being traumatised by not being born through the birth canal, inadequately breast fed, isolated in the dark from their parents' warmth, sent to school against their will, prevented from play and the experience of self, and eventually force marched into a world of work.

This way of child rearing might be compared to: "The little boy slept in his father's arms and we observed that whenever the man was inclined to shift his position, he first put the child over with great care, and then turned round to him." This was reported in *A Complete Account of the Settlement at Port Jackson* by Watkin Tench in 1791, of Aborigines sleeping on the ground as part of a minimum technology culture, yet with a corresponding instinctive understanding of care of children that far surpasses our own.

Of course, civilized means of absenting human instincts, or what Jean Leidloff called the human continuum, will cause humans to feel separate from the world of nature. As they do so, technologies fill in the hollow where human feeling formerly had an existence. The ensuing suffering can be seen in the widespread denial, from beggars to kings, from professors to dirt workers, that an environment crisis even exists. In the long term, it is not human rationality that births technologies, but emotional trauma.

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## Where did those seeds come from?

Just 5 vegetable seed companies control 75% of the global market

by Jim Arachne

Where did that packet of bean seed you bought last week come from? According to Alf Finch, owner of EDEN Seeds, Australia produces nowhere near enough seeds for our own needs, so we import it. Who owns the company that produced the bean seed? Chances are it's a multi-national, agro-chemical company.

According to Philip Howard, researcher from Michigan State University, the giant, agro-chemical, multinational company Monsanto, is the world's largest seed company. They control over one-quarter (26%) of the global proprietary seed market. The agro-chemical companies DuPont (18%) and Syngenta (9%) together account for another 27% – making 53% of the worldwide proprietary seed market controlled by just three companies.

The top ten companies, including the familiar pharmaceutical producers such as Bayer and Dow, control 75.3% of the world's commercial seeds. In fact, Bayer, who clearly don't just make aspirin, is the world's 7th largest seed company (these figures are the most recent available and are for 2011).

For vegetables in particular, the situation is even worse. An alarming figure quoted by Vandana Shiva, Ph.D. (who is, among many other things, a professional scientist, a trained physicist and an environmental activist) is: "Just five vegetable seed companies control 75% of the global vegetable seed market".

For me, this changes seed saving from being "an interesting garden hobby" to "an imperative action"!

Quietly, almost invisibly, the world of food plants is undergoing its own "extinction event" – just like so many wild plants and animals.

Up to the early 1980's, most Western seed companies were small, family-owned businesses. Now, in the US, Monsanto controls around 90% of all plant nurseries. In 1981 there were approximately 5,000 vegetable seed varieties available in US catalogues. Today there are less than 500, a 90% reduction.

Outside the US almost 96% of the commercial vegetable varieties available in the early 1900's are now extinct. Typical percentages of plant varieties lost are: nearly 93% of lettuce varieties, over 96% of sweet corn, more than 95% of tomato, almost 98% of asparagus varieties and 86% of the thousands of different types of apples, (only 11 varieties account for around 90% of the apples sold in supermarkets).

These extinctions are not confined to vegetables and fruit. In the Philippines, thousands of varieties of rice have been reduced to around one hundred while in China 90% of the wheat varieties have also disappeared. (These figures are compiled from reports by the Rural Advancement Foundation International and the Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation).

Kent Whealey, co-founder of the USA's largest Seed Savers group, says, "Few gardeners comprehend the true scope of their garden heritage or how much is in immediate danger of being lost forever."

To put it bluntly, we are only a few years away from virtual total control of our plant food being taken into the hands of a few mega-rich, giant agro-chemical companies. This is disturbing to say the least! The quickest way to short-circuit agro-chemical company's seed monopolies and to ensure our seed supply is to stop buying Monsanto's seeds and save our own.

### Seed Saving for the Home Gardener

Saturday 1st March 10am, with Mij & Jim. Learn the basics of home garden seed-saving. This is a repeat of a training session given in November last year in order to skill up more people.

Nimbin Seed Exchange members will soon be making seed available at the Market on a regular basis. Join the Nimbin Seed Exchange on Facebook and come and learn the art of seed saving so you can join in this quiet thumbing-your-nose-at-Monsanto revolution!

*Blue Knob Farmers Market runs every Saturday, rain, hail or shine, 8.30am to noon, on Blue Knob Road near the corner of Lillian Rock Road, 8km from Nimbin in the grounds of the Blue Knob*

## Water practicalities

Permaculture design spends a considerable amount of time designing for water simply because it plays such a central role in all of life. It sets planet Earth apart from its nearest observable neighbours in the solar system and it accounts for up to 99% of the atomic makeup of all living things.

Most water on the planet, however, is not freshwater, but seawater (93%), and of planetary freshwater, 75% of that is permanently frozen (or was).

Traditionally, readily available freshwater resources played a central role in the location, size and nature of human settlements, often necessitating strict taboos on its conservation and cleanliness. With the advent of storage and treatment facilities, aquifers, long pipelines, desalination plants, and fossil-fuel powered transport, humans have been able to populate areas of the globe regardless of freshwater availability, because they are now able to bring water to them, by whatever means.

Domestic water usage

is thought of in terms of drinking, washing, and agricultural needs, but water plays a much larger role in landscape from a design perspective. Water in the landscape is, for example, the greatest elemental power of force and embodiment, that is, it is the primary storer and redirector of energy. Water is a mirror, in more ways than one. Take a cupful of water from any human settlement on the planet, and you will see the diet and lifestyle of the inhabitants – their discarded toxins, hormone cocktails, faecal matter and mineral runoff. Take away the water from the planet, and that incredible reflective power of oceans and atmosphere which keeps the planet cool enough to inhabit disappears, leaving us but a ball of gathered dust.

Water bodies in human settlements act as storage tanks and if possible should be sited to allow for gravity feeding to the first use point. A water body can also act as an air-conditioner, cooling air as it travels across it into the home in summer, or storing warmth for



Permaculture Principles with Anastasia Guise

slow release overnight in winter. This effect can be significant in creating microclimates around the home in moderately hot or cold climates.

Water is also a major driver of erosion in landscape, which is where swales can be used to slow water and drive it underground, and channels and V-ditches can be used to divert water into water bodies or productive areas.

When designing for water on a community level, as a rule of thumb, I impose two absolute truths. The first is that all upper slopes should be thickly vegetated, both to prevent erosion and to ensure clean watersheds for settlements below. The second is the conservation principle,

meaning using as little as possible, ensuring multi-use (recycled water) and avoiding pollutants.

First, ask yourself, what are your core uses for clean water? Then ask, have you preserved it for a secondary use? Avoid pollutants to ensure your water re-enters the landscape in an available (non-harmful) state for other life. Capture or divert your urine (store no longer than 24hours) for use on fruit trees. Use all wastewater on productive zones, for which purpose you may (now) choose between a myriad of (approved, commercial) systems which allow you to filter it to various degrees and avoid handling it. Divert all water from paths, roads, and paved areas into water bodies for further use, or send it underground to replenish the water table.

But most of all, give thanks for the great gift of clean, fresh water every day.

*Community Permaculture will hold a residential PDC in 'Sustainability and Resilience', 7-19th April at Billen Cliffs. Full details at: [www.communitypermaculture.com.au](http://www.communitypermaculture.com.au) Earlybird price \$1200 until 12th February. Phone 0413-907-014 or 0428-274-385.*

## Four Seasons PDC starts

A first for the Northern Rivers, Permaculture College is offering a 'Four Season' permaculture design course at Djanbung Gardens for local residents in the North Coast region.

The course will be conducted one weekend a month starting in summer (February) and ending in spring (October). This course is ideal for those who can't take two weeks off to do the intensive residential version, or have work commitments that make weekday classes difficult, and to meet the demand for weekend-based permaculture courses.

The teaching team will include Robyn Francis, Janelle Schafer, Guy Stewart, Annaliese Horden, Angela Skeenan and Melian Fertl, all highly experienced permaculturists practicing in the Northern Rivers. The course will cover the full international PDC curriculum with a focus on local species, climate, applications and local sustainable community initiatives. This is a great chance not only to learn about permaculture; participants will have expert guidance and mentoring in

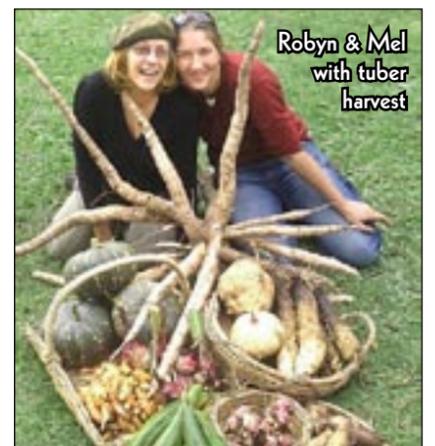
planning their own or a friend's property.

This course is one of the special 20th anniversary offers at Djanbung Gardens, founded in 1994 by international permaculture pioneer, Robyn Francis. Djanbung Gardens is now regarded as a world leader in permaculture education and vocational training.

As part of the aim of providing affordable quality training, course costs have been kept to a minimum, with a sliding scale fee and offering a limited number of reduced fee scholarships for volunteers at Djanbung Gardens.

**Course dates:** Feb 22-23; Mar 22-23; Apr 26-27; May 24-25; Jun 21-22; Aug 23-24; Sep 27-28; Oct 25-26 (Note: there will be no class in July) Each weekend classes will be held on Saturdays 9am to 5pm, and Sundays 9.30am-3.30pm. There will also be some optional Saturday evening film and discussion nights where you can invite friends to join.

Course fee: \$975/\$780 covers all tuition, course handbook, morning and afternoon teas. No catering. The Djanbung canteen will be selling lunches



on Saturdays or BYO lunches or eat in town. Overnight camping available \$7/night to reduce commuting. On the first day of the course, participants will be encouraged to arrange car-pooling for future classes. Couples or people registering with a friend are eligible for a 10% multiple registration discount.

For more information and registration please check out the website: [www.permaculture.com.au](http://www.permaculture.com.au) or email us at: [admin@permaculture.com.au](mailto:admin@permaculture.com.au) or phone 02 6689-1755 (Mon, Wed & Fri 10am-4pm).

## Toilet training

A young Kookaburra draws a sarcastic cackle. Its family have mysteriously disappeared. Now it sits alone and calls repeatedly, with less and less enthusiasm. I blame cane toads... grrrrrr. The male butcher bird with the unfathomably complex song has gone too. In his wake he has left his mate with her three young. Two are doing very well and are independent, but the third is a dunce. To its mother's disgrace it has failed every lesson and still pesters her for food. I guess some mothers do have 'em. At least birds are already toilet trained.

Toilet training for kids can be either a fearful trial or a lot of fun. I vaguely remember visiting a toilet that turned

green when I pissed in it. Ever since then (I was about 4yo), I have been slightly disappointed every time nothing happens. Toilet training starts when kids don't like wearing dirty nappies. This can vary, but is usually around the time they start to walk and show interest in things about the home. The first thing to remember is to not make a big deal out of setbacks. Guilt around toilet training is often one of the first instilled negative emotions we experience, and is easily avoided with a relaxed and patient attitude. I remember taking my young sons to the toilet when I wanted to go so I could show him how much fun it could be. I'd wee really hard and make the toilet turn

### View from the loo by Stuart McConville

into a sea of bubbles, or piss as far as I could and shoot a leaf or a rock. In the men's room, I'd squirt on the little urinal puck to send it as far as I could toward the drain at the end. I even taught my kids to shoot wee like a machine gun in stops and starts so they could learn control of the sphincter muscles necessary for controlling the flow. It wasn't long before my kids were looking forward to beating me both for distance and accuracy (it's amazing how far young kids can pee).

Toilet training is a consequence of discomfort so it's no point starting unless you are willing to give up daytime nappies. Start by giving

kids their own potty, which eventually should be placed in the toilet room. Find a solid potty with a bit of weight in it so it doesn't end upside down on the floor so easily. Boys can have a ping-pong ball with a face drawn on it to aim at placed in the toilet bowl. This is something that you can take with you to encourage kids to use other loos. Alternatively a face or a target can be drawn / stuck on the back of the bowl. Pick the best time to sit your child on the potty for five minutes or so, after a bath or a feed perhaps. Ask questions regularly about their need to pee, and try to make it relevant to fun things i.e. when you've gone to the loo we can read the story. Patience and perseverance are your biggest allies, as is the knowledge that we all get there in the end.



## Nimbin Preschool happenings

### Draven constructs a dinosaur

Draven was very interested in the dinosaur reference books from the preschool's library.

He found the image he liked and brought it into the design studio. Draven proceeded to draw with assistance, starting with the dinosaur's head. As he drew, Draven increased in self-confidence.

This is what Draven said to Diane, the teacher: "I know about dinosaurs because

I'm drawing one. All the dinosaurs have died you know."

Diane: "How did that happen?"  
"Because they were in a different world and killing people. The people were trying to kill the dinosaurs."

Diane: "How do you know it was a different world?"

"Cause it has dinosaurs in it. But if we don't kill them, they'll be nice to us. The people can't come in their world because they live in a different world."

## New playgroup at the Ridge

This year Rainbow Ridge School will be offering a Steiner-based playgroup for young children who are not yet old enough to attend kindergarten.

Rainbow Ridge School currently offers a Steiner-based education for children from kindergarten to Year six. The school is in a beautiful bush setting and aims to nourish all aspects of the child through an education based on Rudolf Steiner's indications of human development.

The kindergarten provides a play-based program that works strongly with daily rhythms and the cycles of nature. The play materials are hand-made from natural resources and encourage the development of imagination.

It is envisaged that the playgroup will be offered two mornings a week, and will introduce the little ones to some aspects of Steiner kindergarten life. There will be playtime, songs

and movement during circle time, baking and storytime.

This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and caregivers to spend some special time each week with their young child while connecting with other families, learning new songs and discovering what Steiner education is about.

For expressions of interest, please call Rainbow Ridge School office on 6689-7033.



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## Welcome to our new Kindergarten students



by Dian Whitney,  
NCS assistant principal

On their first day of school, the Kindergarten students at Nimbin Central School were made to feel welcome and supported when all the Primary students greeted them with many smiles and cheers.

The students have transitioned into school very well, and our vision is for them to walk confidently through the Kindergarten year with the skills, experiences and support they need to be successful.

They have found many new friends, and the playground is always the favourite.

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## Soundgarden at Cawongla Playhouse



Hunter and Delilah explore the sound garden

by Leanne Logan

No – Sound garden, not 'Soundgarden', silly!

That's right, we have started constructing a garden of sound, using recycled materials.

As educators we understand and observe the learning that takes place outdoors in the grass, amongst the trees, bushes and play equipment. We look at ways we can enrich this learning by providing resources and learning opportunities for children to interact with and explore.

Our resident music teacher, Jamie, has constructed two functional and beautiful

sounding instruments to be explored by children and adults at preschool. Made from gas cylinder and air compressor, this junk has been transformed into the beginnings of a musical playground, with more instruments planned for this year.

We value the process and necessity to create functional, aesthetically pleasing resources using recycled materials, it's just one way we incorporate creative sustainability into our programming.

For more information on our various projects or on enrolments, please phone 6633-7167, Monday to Friday.

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by Gwen Trimble

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Cars

The world according to...  
Magenta Appel-Pye

I don't understand men's obsessions with cars. When people ask me what I drive, I say a red one.

My husband once bought an old Ford ambulance. It had charisma and everyone admired it. We had parties in there and lived comfortably in it at festivals. It easily fitted piano actions needing workshop repairs. Hell, it could have fitted a coffin. It probably did! Once we had to go to Lismore hospital and the only parking spot available was reserved for ambulances. Beauty!

But she'd seen more exciting days and was fast dying. Endless repairs, new bodywork and a coat of paint were necessary. Norm spent endless hours designing, researching and talking about it and often, when it broke down, he had to borrow my car to get to work. It had to go.

He bought a second-hand Ford Territory. No more

problems, except grief and lamenting. Years later he still gets emotional when he sees an ambulance, particularly last time, because he was in one.

He now has comfort and reliability, but no soul connection. He turned up to tune an old customer's piano who commented, "Where's your ambo?" Don't get him started! Yesterday we drove past a rusty old Ford panel van with a sign: *For Sale, needs gearbox, make an offer.* His eyes lit up and his brain started calculating. Here we go again...

I have to sell my lovely red Commodore 2002 VX. It has been the best car I've ever owned because of its reliability, smooth drive and all the technology that I could ever want. But am I attached, and is it an extension of my ego? No. Just don't ask me to sell my saxophone!

If you're in the market for a fast red car, ring me on 6684-4215.

www.magentaappelpye.com.au

## What's wrong with this picture?

Sara McCafferty snapped this scenic view at the causeway at the end of Gungas Road, Nimbin - a long way from any of the ubiquitous fast food chain outlets. Go figure.



## trivia

Devised by our Quizmaster, Marty

### Questions

1. How many are there in a baker's dozen?
2. Other than Los Angeles, what other major city is referred to as the City of Angels?
3. Who was the first man to fly a powered aeroplane in Australia?
4. In what country did the Battle of Waterloo take place?
5. Who is the Federal Minister for Communications?
6. Who said, "I love the man's music but I couldn't warm to him if I was cremated next to him? Who was he talking about?"
7. By what name do we better know benzoylmethylecgonine?
8. If something is going "Widdershins" what is it doing?
9. How many animals of each species did Moses take on the ark?
10. In which modern day country is the birthplace of Buddha?

## Nimbin Crossword

2014-2  
by 5ynic



### Across

1. Assignment? Superseded parchment
7. (Military) assistant
9. Lie in wait? Silent in a forum!
10. On the spectrum-
11. Circus hoop
12. Firm
13. Nothingness? Lost continent
15. Stymies? British predatory mammals
16. Lessen
18. British flag carrier (init.)
19. Tummy muscle
20. Misdeeds
21. Without pattern

22. Ragged? Threadbare?
23. Gran
24. Lowest point

### Down

2. Follower of Haile Selassie
3. Unconvincing?
4. Airship
5. Clever remark
6. Movie take markers
8. Genial
10. Wile E. Coyote's favourite mail order firm
14. Elaborate display
15. Garlanded
16. Delicious mollusc? Hexagonal boardgame
17. Newborn
20. (The) adversary?

1. 13. Medieval English bakers faced severe penalties if a dozen (12 loaves) fell below a certain weight so they took to supplying 13 loaves to be sure.
2. Bangkok. Its full name is "Krung Thep Mahanakhon Amon Rattanakosin Mahinthara Ayuthaya Mahadilok Phop Noppharat Ratchathani Burirom Udomratchaniwet Mahasathan Amon Pitsanulok Rajavidyalalai Mahadulakulrajavidyalaya Prasit." This translates to "The city of angels, the great city, the residence of the Emerald Buddha, the impregnable city (unlike Ayutthaya) of God Indra, the grand capital of the world endowed with nine precious gems, the happy city, abounding in an enormous Royal Palace that resembles the heavenly abode where reigns the reincarnated god, a city given by Indra and built by Vishnu." Not surprisingly, Bangkok has the longest name of any major city in the world.
3. Harry Houdini! In 1910. Some debate exists that suggests he was beaten by a guy called Devries, but his flight was considered a "hop and a crash" rather than a sustained flight.
4. Belgium. When they built the Channel Tunnel, the British terminal was at Waterloo Station. The French were less than amused. But when were they ever amused by the English? And who really cares? 5. Malcolm Turnbull. The Abbott Government have a Minister for Communications. Propaganda and Misinformation more like. The term "Turnbull Network" will end up being synonymous with any underpowered low-speed network masquerading as broadband, once he has knackered the NBN.
6. Keith Richards talking about Chuck Berry. No comment from me is necessary. Keef said it all.
7. Cocaine. Speaking of Keith Richards, he said in his autobiography, "I don't do cocaine anymore. It's not that I gave up on coke, it's more like coke gave up on me."
8. Turning anticlockwise. The way you don't circumambulate a Stupa.
9. None. According to the myth it was Noah and the Ark.
10. Nepal. Land of mountains and tourists.

Answers

Solution Page 31

# TIME

by Zuela Christie

Here on Earth, we experience space as three-dimensional and time as linear. We perceive Life as having a defined past, present and projected future. But things are not what they seem. If the equation was so simple, why do most people spend so much of their lives reliving their past or imagining their future?

Our instrument for perceiving is the awesome human psyche with its infinite plasticity and potential. Be Here Now or 'Be still and know that I am God' is the primary spiritual instruction – but easier said than done, eh? Our experiences of time are so varied, depending on how we are feeling, what we are doing, our physical condition, our interpretation, our focus, our age, what is happening around us, the state of the collective unconscious – and that is before we deliberately ingest mind-altering substances.

Think of a trauma like a car accident when everything is happening so fast but you get such an adrenaline surge and suddenly you now have so much time to react, for example. Or when you are engrossed in an activity and lose all track of time. In REM sleep, an epic dream may take place in what is no more than an externally measurable second. In meditative practices or in drugged states which simulate these, the stepping outside of linear time is the means to an end, which is to connect with the ultimate dimension – eternity.



One useful analogy for time is to think of it as a wave which we view on the surface as 3-D historical birth/death time. It is also the water – eternity. The reason we can feel both is that we are also both – the human incarnation and the eternal spirit in one being. Our spirit or higher self receives the divine influx and knows why we are here. We can step beyond our self and into our Self, so to speak, to experience the water within the wave. If the temporal line is horizontal, we can move vertically in the present moment to reach beyond time – where we were before we got here and will return to when we go.

So the temporal is temporary and our sense of the tempo

varies widely. Vibrational healing goes so deep – right in to the spirit/matter interface – so that our time perception is altered. Everyone is surprised when they spend two and a half hours on the table and feel like time has hardly passed.

It is so hard to live fully in the present moment because we have been born into fear. It would more accurately be called original fear than 'original sin', which has come to imply deliberate disobedience, which is crap. This deceit was fostered to increase fear. Sin really means that which cuts us off from God, from the flow of Life, from The Source. God is Love and Love is letting go of fear.

We have all experienced suffering in our past, and we often recall our past – replaying our old movies repeatedly and suffering again each time we do. This habit, along with reacting to new events as if they were the old ones – projecting our fears into the future is so strong in us because these events remain active as long as they still carry an emotional charge which is striving for some resolution.

Suppose you were abused as a child. You were fragile and vulnerable and suffered greatly. You were probably afraid all the time. Perhaps in your mind you continue to feel abused over and over, even though you are now an adult. A part of you is still a wounded child, still full of fear and anguish. If we root ourselves in the present moment, we can go back compassionately and rescue our child from suffering, release emotion without overwhelm, invite your child to come and live life with you now and no longer be stuck and afraid.

A client said to me that he now realised time travel is truly possible as he felt like he had now rewritten his past and was free to move forward after experiencing this process.

Zuela practices at The Green Bank, Nimbin, and can be contacted on 0429-501-387.

## ASTRO FORECASTS

by Tina Mews

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS?

### february

At the moment, the Sun sends its cosmic rays through socially orientated Aquarius, the sign of friendship. Individuals who are strongly influenced by it are often concerned with the subject of social structuring seeking to reform society and human nature. The impulse to reform can be very powerfully fuelled by an abstract ideal of human perfection. Aquarius is a mental air sign even though the mythological background of 'the waterbearer' reveals a close connection to 'the waters of life' that Aquarius pours out of his vessel.

As we enter the Age of Aquarius we feel the urge to live in a better, more 'humane' world. However, inaugurating a new reality requires the development of our intuitive powers, the ability to perceive life and its diverse forms energetically as an interconnected whole. Aquarians are idealists and interested in the progress of the collective more than individual achievements believing that the whole is more important than the parts that compose it. Nevertheless, head and heart can remain disconnected with the result of being too emotionally detached and too fixed on their at times eccentric ideas. Heart-felt passion and warmth from the opposite sign Leo might be the missing ingredient for shining the light in the dark and grounding a worthwhile cause. The Aquarius New Moon took place on January 31, which always marks the beginning of the Chinese New Year. The exact opposition between forceful Pluto and philosophical Jupiter indicates that it is essential to speak our truth with confidence and own our power.

Mercury, the cosmic messenger, enters the watery sign of Pisces on February 1, and turns retrograde on February 7 (until February 28), signalling time for reflection and revision; anything to do with communication, networking and transport might be delayed; electrical things can break down more readily and it is easy to misinterpret messages. On the positive, Mercury in Pisces reminds us to reconnect with our dreams, adding emotional energy



to the mental concepts of Aquarius.

However, Mercury is conjoined illusive Neptune for the first half of the month, which will make it difficult to keep a clear mind, but is great for creative projects. Neptune symbolises our urge for fusion and spiritual longing.

The Full Moon in fiery and playful Leo (February 15) is square Saturn, the planet of restrictions and order. It could

provide us with the determination to address longstanding problems especially concerning creative projects or interpersonal issues.

The Nodal axis enters the signs of Libra and Aries on February 18 and will remain in these signs for the next 18 months (until November 2015). Collective lessons of a particular period are described by the nodal axis, the South and North Lunar Node, the two points where the Moon's path crosses the ecliptic. In other words, the nodes are the meeting point of the Sun, Moon and Earth and therefore very influential indicators of our collective destiny. Solar and lunar eclipses always occur near this axis. The North and South Nodes can be seen as two gates: the North Node as a gateway leading towards the unexplored territory, where we search to bring in a new order, whereas the South Node is the place where we deal with our past, our collective or family history. We are urged to consciously search and choose cooperation (Libra) over competition (Aries) and relationship building activities (Libra) over actions that are exclusively fuelled by self interest and competition (Aries).

On February 19, the Sun enters the watery realms of Pisces. The energy shifts from the abstract world of mental concepts (Aquarius) to an emphasis on imagination and emotional stimulation (Pisces).

For personal astrology consultation and/or a forecast for 2014 contact me on 6689-7413 or 0457-903-957, via e-mail: [star-loom@hotmail.com](mailto:star-loom@hotmail.com) or visit: <http://nimbin-starloom.com.au>

**Astrology classes at the Lillifield Community Centre:** Wednesdays, 10am – 1pm: 'The Art of Chart Delineation'; Thursdays: 10am – 1pm: 'Working with the Principles of Astrology to Facilitate Self-Awareness and Well-Being'.

#### Aries

Expect the unexpected and be prepared for an eventful time. Community and friends play a large role right now and it is helpful to take a cooperative approach. Reflect upon your truth especially concerning your life direction and career path, but try not to upset those who are supporting you.

#### Taurus

Friends might be of great help at the moment especially in regards to your work and aspirations. You might be at times hard to convince, however, upholding an open mind right now will expand, enrich and deepen your personal experiences as well as your understanding of the world at large.

#### Gemini

Mercury's retrograde phase might be confusing but it allows you to reflect or reconsider your career path and life direction. You might want to improve your situation or make changes to parts of your life that do not work well or are unfulfilling. On the other hand you could delve deeper into your creativity.

#### Cancer

This month lends itself for reviewing the values that your share with your relationship and partnerships. You might find that your aspirations and hopes have shifted. Find a new balance between accommodating the needs of others and the space you need for your own soul growth. Trust your ability to read the intentions of others.

#### Leo

Right now it is a great time for engaging with others who share your hopes and aspirations. Inspirational ideas gained out of these contacts expand your own cultural understanding and tolerance. Communicate these insights in your local environment with the intention to broaden the acceptance of diversity within community.

#### Virgo

There are lots of issues that need to be organised and talked about. However, keep in mind that Mercury, the planet of communication is retrograde during February 7 - 28. This is fertile ground for misunderstandings. Delay, revisit your dreams and wait until this period has past.

#### Libra

The beginning of this month might bring intensity and drama in your personal and family relationships as new opportunities are showing up on the horizon. The North Node

enters Libra mid-month (until November 2015). This is a shift towards independence and decisiveness, which could give rise to tensions in your relationships. Work out a different balance between 'giving and taking'.

#### Scorpio

Saturn, the planetary taskmaster, is still in your sun sign during this year, bringing tests and trials that can be overcome with effort and persistence. Watch what is going on in your immediate surroundings or neighbourhood and avoid taking on too much. Instead, spend some time alone and contemplate on your life's goals. Be open for new insights.

#### Sagittarius

During this Mercury retrograde phase (February 7 - 28) you might find it helpful to reflect on the many ideas and impressions of the last few months. You might even want to evaluate the past to be better prepared for your future steps. In your communications with others it is important for you to be heard and to express yourself. However, it is of equal value to take things in by quietly listening.

#### Capricorn

You might find that your relationships with others are more intense and dramatic during these times. You might even feel disappointed when others fail to live up to your level of commitment or loyalty. Let things slow down a bit and use this Mercury retrograde period (February 7 - 28) to gather information rather than reaching for conclusions, especially if it involves others in your surroundings.

#### Aquarius

This might be a great moment in time for gathering cooperation from people to help with the fulfilment of your aims and purposes. However, pause, reflect and make sure that your ideas are in touch with your day-to-day reality. Pay particular attention to details regarding money and expenses during this Mercury retrograde period (February 7 - 28).

#### Pisces

Mercury and Neptune will be conjoined for the first half of this month favouring artistic projects, especially music and dance. The atmosphere will become even more fluid when the Sun enters your sun sign on February 19, remaining close to illusive Neptune for the rest of the month. This could be a sign for increased sensitivity and you might feel like retreating or escaping into your own private world.