

# Ukitopia set to impress in September

by Maya Krasna, Artistic Director, and the Ukitopia team



**Uki Fashion Show**  
Friday 14th Sept  
6.30 for 7pm show in Uki Hall  
Feel like you're in Paris & enjoy the art of slow fashion  
[www.ukitopia.com](http://www.ukitopia.com)

**Fashion Labels**  
Maya Krasna  
Pangaia  
Uzume Bee  
Tara Kyle  
Agnes A.  
Bee Weave Art  
Tashi Wollumbin  
Hadia Goldhawk  
Boho & Co.

## Images of Uki exhibition

This year is the 10th Anniversary of Images of Uki and there's a lot to celebrate. This show is one of Uki's great events and has been running consistently for ten years now.

The Images of Uki opening night on Thursday 13th September will be wonderful as always, with free drinks, delicious (and artistic) food and great music, and will be held from 6 to 9pm.

The exhibition will then be open to the public on Friday from 10am to 4.30pm, on Saturday from 9am to 3pm and on Sunday from 9am to 2pm, with the People's Choice Award being announced that day.

The art show is open to artists of all ages, in all mediums, but the artists must come from the 2484 postcode, with a maximum of three entries per person.

Come along to see just how creative and diverse our local community is, and put in your vote for the People's Choice Award.

## The Village Celebration

The fun and creativity will continue on Friday the 14th with the Fashion Show, to be held from 7 to 9pm. (Doors open at 6.30pm)

Nine amazing and very diverse local designers will showcase this year's designs. This will be accompanied by vibrant entertainment and dance performances.

Fashion items modelled will be available for sale on the night. Artfully presented food and drinks will be available. Entry is \$7.

Saturday the 15th brings the village a wonderful range of entertainment and activities. The Saturday Farmers Market will be held on the grounds of the Uki Buttery in the morning.

The very popular Crafternoon will be on from 10am to 3pm, with a range of craft activities and workshops for kids and adults.

Family-friendly entertainment and busking will take place on the Village Green stage from 1 to 5pm, with food stalls, chai and face painting.

The Uki Café will be hosting Tapas and Tunes from 5 to 7pm.

Lastly, there will be an after party (with dancing, of course) at the Mount Warning Hotel from 7pm.

For more info, follow Ukitopia Arts Collective on Facebook, check our website: [www.ukitopia.com](http://www.ukitopia.com) or send us an email at: [ukitopia@gmail.com](mailto:ukitopia@gmail.com)

## ASTRO FORECASTS

by Tina Mews

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS?

### Aries

The current Virgo energies are best used for putting your life back into order and establishing good routines. Your health or diet might need some attention as well. Mars is finally in forward motion setting the course for future plans and projects, especially after September 11!

### Taurus

Putting attention to details will greatly increase your creative productivity. Getting things right is one thing, but making your goals attainable is another. Find out what really matters to you and set your priorities. You can achieve a lot now. Believe in your dreams and hold the vision!

### Gemini

This is the time of the year where you want to get your house in order, clean out the old and make enough space so that new developments in your life can be anchored and made solid. Take a pragmatic approach in structuring and manifesting new ideas and plans.

### Cancer

You might find that your tendency to 'over-think' has a negative effect on your digestive system. Therefore, find ways to relax and keep an open mind. Eating the right foods that nourish your entire system is essential now. Don't hesitate to communicate your thoughts and ideas to others so that you can get their feedback and support to manifest them in reality.

### Leo

This might be the time to deal with your 'overdue accounts' in case you have 'overspent' during the fiery Leo phase. All levels have to be addressed, including the emotional and spiritual. Where did the energy go and how can you recharge your batteries? Maybe there are areas in your life where you need to 'call the spirits back'.

### Virgo

Make use of the current energies by initiating a good health regime or building up your skill level. This is the time of your yearly Solar return and the beginning of a new cycle! Set your intentions for the next 12 months at the Virgo New Moon on September 10. Believe in your vision, you can manifest your ideas if you fuel them with the right amount of emotional intensity.

### Libra

September could bring a change in direction. It is a good time of the year

## September

September is a time of transition and marks another turning point of the year, when the Sun journeys through the earthy and pragmatic realm of Virgo before entering the cardinal sign Libra during the Equinox September 23. The many occurrences of the last few weeks can be processed and assimilated now under the calmer and more grounded vibes of Virgo, the sign that rules discernment, processing and digestion. Virgo is a mutable earth sign, concerned with getting all the details right. Virgo individuals are able to swing from a phase of working hard while neglecting their bodies to the other extreme of pursuing a strict health regime with lots of exercise. They achieve a state of balance when they have developed their analytical mind alongside with their intuitive powers (Pisces polarity), and then can judge the amount of duties they want to take on without becoming overwhelmed or stressed. Seeing the whole picture assists with letting go of perfectionism and an over-critical attitude, and lessens the need for escape when things get too much. The influence of the 'fiery' August eclipses is still in the atmosphere potentially steering towards a new perspective on authority, leadership and hierarchical structures. While the powerful Leo energies have put a strong emotional signal towards living in accordance with our own beliefs, abilities and true purpose, the more grounding Virgo phase is helpful with separating the non-essential from the essential. The task is to adjust and amend where we might have gone too far and therefore out of synch with the larger picture and developmental necessities. It is a time of reflection and self-examination to implement the changes that are necessary for bringing life back into balance. Seeing the whole picture is necessary, but in order to get there, we need to take a step-by-step approach.

Saturn turns direct on September 6, ending its yearly retrograde phase. We now can reconnect with projects and plans that might have been birthed already in early January and re-worked since mid-April, when Saturn moved retrograde. Are they still valid and which weaknesses have we been able to rectify? Saturn in Capricorn forms a beneficial earth trine with Uranus in Taurus until September 22. Its stabilising influence supports innovation and the creative realisation of plans. It helps to remain pragmatic, well-structured and take a down-to-earth approach. With Mars in forward movement again since late August, it is a good time for taking new initiative and cutting free



from inhibitions or restrictions from the past. The Virgo New Moon on September 10 signals discernment, that it is essential 'to separate the wheat from the chaff'. She makes aspects to the two most distant planets of our solar system which also correlate with the Jungian 'Collective Unconscious', or the deepest layers of our psyche. The New Moon forms an easy trine with Pluto, Lord of the Underworld and opposes Neptune, the planet which rules our highest aspirations but also most dangerous deceptions. Knowing what is fact and what is fiction will be helpful with navigating successfully through this New Moon period and beyond. Venus is opposite Uranus (September 10-14). We have to find a balance in our relationships between co-operation and independence to avoid open confrontation. Being able to prioritise and clarify values will greatly help this process. The Full Moon in Aries on September 25 aligns with Chiron and forms a stressful square with Saturn. A Mars, South Node, Lilith conjunction further intensifies this already intense Full Moon. We are still processing all the changes brought by Mars during its 10 week retrograde period that ended August 27 but will still reverberate until early October. Our emotions could run high, while gender issues as well as themes around fairness and equality are highlighted. Speaking our truth openly and directly (Aries) though remaining sensitive towards the feelings of the other (Libra) is essential. This is a potent moment in time to heal old residues of victim consciousness. On the other hand, it is also a good time to watch for triggers to conflict and avoid fights that are not necessary and drain energy levels.

### Navigation by the Stars:

Personal and/or Relationship Astrology; Life Cycles and Your Year Ahead: Plans, Directions, Concerns for 2018; contact 0457-903-957 or email: [star-loom@hotmail.com](mailto:star-loom@hotmail.com)

Weekly Classes: 'Astrology for Beginners: Planetary Themes & Aspect Patterns', Tuesday evenings 5.30pm - 8pm, starts August 28 at the Lillifield Community Centre; for bookings and info email: [star-loom@hotmail.com](mailto:star-loom@hotmail.com) or contact 0457-903-957.

### One-day Workshops:

'Soul-Astrology, Emotional Well-Being & Australian Bush Flower Essences'; September 15, 10am - 4pm; at Living Yoga Sanga, Stuart St 63, Mullumbimby;

'The Astrology of Relationship'; September 29, 10am - 4pm, Lillifield Community Centre; for bookings and info email: [star-loom@hotmail.com](mailto:star-loom@hotmail.com) or contact 0457-903-957.

Special C\*I\*A Astrology Retreat: 'Celestial Secrets - Empowering Evolution'; 11th - 15th October, at Uki; contact 0457-903-957 for more information

for you to reflect on the last 12 months and filter out the essence; let go of what is not needed anymore and dream a new vision that can be planted at the approaching Equinox (Sept 23). Commit to ideas and projects that are worthwhile.

### Scorpio

The energies of the moment are aimed at team building and community work. Balancing your own will power with the wishes of the group requires diplomacy and emotional detachment. You may need to give space to the ideas and plans of others while working towards mutual goals. It also is a great time for making new friends or deepening the bonds within existing friendships.

### Sagittarius

You seem to have a lot going on in your day-to-day life at the moment. Planning and putting down good structures helps with manifesting your goals. You are also nearing the end of a 12-year Jupiter cycle. Therefore take some time to reflect in which direction you like to grow over the next years or which projects and ideas you like to support and energise.

### Capricorn

This is a great time for expanding your horizons and working on a new, larger perspective on life. Trying to understand those better who hold different beliefs will support this process. Maintain an open mind as things start moving forward again; incorporating new information will enrich your growth process.

### Aquarius

This may or may not be a good time for joint projects, depending on your ability to be co-operative and understanding of the viewpoints of others. Plan your steps carefully and wisely. Details are essential now. From September 11 onwards you have more energy at your disposal to move your plans forward. Try to be diplomatic in your dealings with others.

### Pisces

The pragmatic mode of the current Virgo influence might help with solving day-to-day tasks and keeping your feet on the ground. Use the energies to nurture yourself and engage in what is emotionally fulfilling to you. Your one-to-one relationships might be under review right now. Try not to find in the other the perfection that you feel is lacking in you!



## Feeling blessed

by Marilyn Devlin

It's that time of year again – completing a journey around the zodiac... returning home to Virgo.

"The Virgo aspect of our journey through life is to get to know ourselves on all levels of our being. We grow more self-aware as we experience life and as we integrate what we learn in life – when we come to acknowledge the meaning of our experiences. As we do we change and grow... so each year we need to figure out who exactly we are now." – Cathy Pagano

That sense has been with me a lot... asking myself "Who am I?" and "Where do I belong?"

It's been a humungous year... at least for me. The last year of my sixties. A year of going deep, exploring ancient parts of myself... uncovering lost bits. Allowing everything... accepting all of me. Loving myself without condition.

I feel both full and empty at the same time. Like I've taken in so much while also releasing heaps. Feels like there's a big empty space inside... all shiny and cleansed. Waiting to be filled with something wonderful. Who would have thought we carted around so much?

I've not stood in this spot before... so much behind me and so much arriving at my doorstep. I'm so grateful that I'm alive; that sacred breath continues to visit me. I'm super grateful for everything I have... that I can continue to grow and unfold. Become the best version of myself.

It doesn't end... 'til the last breath leaves. After that, who knows? So many adventures ahead... so many new roads, new heights, new achievements. So much love, so much tenderness... so much joy. We truly are blessed.

Are things challenging at times – of course. They help us grow... we're amazingly resilient as human beings. We're way more courageous and clever than we realise. Do I doubt at times – yes. Do I resist... mmmm.

Do I feel lonely and lost at times – of course. I'm

human. My experiences are wide and varied... but at the core of me I'm super grateful for being here.

Seventy years ago in the beautiful mountain village of Katoomba – bathed in the auric field of the Three Sisters... springtime in the mountains – my dear mother birthed me.

So many experiences have shaped and carved me. So much love, so much sadness... struggle and joy. We're human, we experience it all. But boy am I glad to be here. I feel incredibly blessed.

This Virgo's done a heap of growing during this powerful year of new beginnings. Like birthing... beginnings are not always without their challenges. But boy, what incredible results are possible.

It feels like I'm standing on the doorstep of a whole new frontier. The door's yet to open but I can feel it, sense it, smell it. Its vibration seeps through the door. I feel this is the time of my mastery, my supreme accomplishments... truly my golden years.

Acceptance is a powerful force... you accept something you make it be.

After nine months of journeying during this powerhouse of a year... we're all ready to birth something new. Springtime is rebirth time. Time for blossoming, opening wide... taking in the full radiance of life.

These are epoch building times – what an opportunity we have. We get to be a part of this... this building of a new age. Exciting is an understatement. I reckon it will show us what we're made of. We're capable of so much more.

We live on this paradise of a planet... we spin through space. We have galactic neighbours... we're surrounded by an intelligence of unimaginable awesomeness.

We have so much to celebrate... so much to share. So much to love. So much to be a part of. It's time to be a part of what's possibly one of the most significant restructuring times in human history.

I'm really glad I'm here.

## Nimbin Crossword

2018-09  
by 5ynic



### Across

- Long-tailed space rock
- Eye sockets
- Pre-fall garden?
- Dance (party)
- Cot
- Dirty
- (and 34 across) (Proposed) 6th branch of the US armed forces (5,5)
- Japanese board game
- A celestial body observed by telescope in 1610, such as Io or Europa (8,4)
- Nurse (init.)
- Last podium place
- To the far side
- Baby powder?
- Sprinkle?
- South American civilisation
- Water missile
- See 15 across

### Down

- Blue-green
- Resting atop
- Not smooth
- Preventable lung infection
- Strongbox
- Danger, Will Robinson? (4,2,5)
- International Space Station (init.)
- Japanese fighting staff
- (false?) god
- Introductory punctuation
- Space rocks
- \_\_\_ Brooks, country singer
- Creme-filled chocolate biscuit
- Proponent of 15 across. Top-ranked suite of cards.
- The EU's space agency (init.)
- Five-day cricket international
- National air force (init.)
- Perform the lead role
- Preposition
- Home of your instincts and base drives, in Freudian analysis
- Number

Solution: Page 37

## Nimbin Trivia Time

by Eclectus

### Questions

- Who, what, where or when is, are, was, were, might be or will be, the Hecatoncheires?
- Where is Lake Arragon? Hint: It's not in Middle Earth.
- Who wrote and performed "Music Inspired by Lord of the Rings"?
- Name the Prime Minister of Australia. Score a bonus point if you can guess who it will be next week!
- Who was Australia's fourth Prime Minister?

1. The Hecatoncheires were powerful giants in Greek mythology. Three children of Gaia and Uranus, they were Titans, each possessing 100 hands and 50 heads in addition to immeasurable strength. During the 10-year Battle of the Titans, at Gaia's urging, they sided with the Zeus and the Olympian gods. Their immense strength and ferocity, allowing each of them to hurl 100 mountain sized rocks simultaneously, was significant in the triumph of the gods over the Titans. Those interested in Greek mythology may find Steven Fry's retelling and Seven Fry's retelling of Greek mythology by Michael Joseph, *Mythos* (2017) of interest.

2. Lake Arragon is near Broom's Head, a Swedish musician who wrote it in 1969 and released the album in 1970 to great acclaim. It reached number 34 on the UK Album Chart. Sorry. That wasn't a real question, just a lament for our broken political system.

3. Sir George Houston Reid GCB, GCMG, PC, KC, (Free Trader) was Australia's 4th Prime Minister. He served from 18/08/1904 to 05/07/1905, 10 months and 17 days. He succeeded Chris Watson (Labor) who served for four months. Watson's predecessor, Alfred Deakin (Protectionist) served for four months as well. Hmm.

4. The UK Album Chart. It reached number 34 on the UK Album Chart. Sorry. That wasn't a real question, just a lament for our broken political system.

5. Lake Arragon is near Broom's Head, a Swedish musician who wrote it in 1969 and released the album in 1970 to great acclaim. It reached number 34 on the UK Album Chart. Sorry. That wasn't a real question, just a lament for our broken political system.

### Answers

St Vincent de Paul Society  
NSW  
good works

# YOU'RE NOT ALONE

VINNIES IS HERE TO HELP

To find out more please call  
**02 6862 5758** or email  
[wcfsvdp@vinnies.org.au](mailto:wcfsvdp@vinnies.org.au)

## Star-loom

Navigation by the Stars

Astrological Counselling  
Chart Readings  
Workshops

Tina Mews

0457 903 957  
[star-loom@hotmail.com](mailto:star-loom@hotmail.com)  
[nimbin-starloom.com.au](http://nimbin-starloom.com.au)

## Has Your Hot Water System Been Checked Lately?

Ever Heard Of A Sacrificial Anode?

A sacrificial anode is a vital part of your water system, and having it inspected can be the difference between an efficiently working system and a costly replacement.

Manufacturers recommend that you maintain the anode in your system in order to prevent damage from rust + corrosion. After its 5th birthday – warranty expires.

**THE ANODE IN YOUR SYSTEM SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO CORRODE AWAY, WHATEVER TYPE OR BRAND OF SYSTEM YOU HAVE – Solar, Electric, Gas or Heat Pumps.**

FOR A LIMITED TIME we will check your anode in your area free of charge.

**"REMEMBER, YOU CAN'T LOSE. NO ANODE REPLACEMENT, NO CHARGE"**

Comes with a 5 year warranty  
Make your Hot Water System last for 30 years without replacement.

**AUSSIE ANODES**  
Arrange a free inspection: phone  
**1300 166 673**

Cutaway section of a typical electric hot water heater

WALLERS BUS COMPANY  
Valley of Rainbows

## LISMORE – NIMBIN NIMBIN – LISMORE BUS SERVICE

Ph: 02) 66226266 Fax: 02) 66226682  
Email: [wallersbuscompany@bigpond.com](mailto:wallersbuscompany@bigpond.com)

Contact us for a very competitive quote on quality seat-belted coaches, capacity 18 to 59 including wheelchair accessibility  
Full timetable on-line at: [www.wallersbus.com](http://www.wallersbus.com)

Normal Mon-Fri Week		School Holidays	
Leaving	Arriving	Leaving	Arriving
Lismore Transit Centre	Nimbin – Main St. (Park)	Lismore Transit Centre	Nimbin – Main St. (Park)
7.00am	7.30am	8.00am	8.30am
8.00am	8.45am	12.00pm	12.35pm *
12.00pm	12.35pm *	2.35pm	3.10pm
2.35pm	3.10pm	5.30pm	6.00pm
3.20pm	4.15pm		
5.30pm	6.00pm		
		Leaving	Arriving
		Nimbin – Main St. (Park)	Lismore Transit Centre
		9.00am	9.35am
		12.45pm	1.15pm *
		3.25pm	4.10pm
		6.05pm	6.35pm
		Leaving	Arriving
		Nimbin – Main St. (Park)	Lismore Transit Centre
		7.52am	8.50am
		9.00am	9.35am
		12.45pm	1.15pm *
		3.25pm	4.10pm
		4.25pm	5.15pm
		6.05pm	6.35pm

\* Mondays & Thursdays Only

No Public Holiday Service  
Wheelchair access available  
Some buses connect in Nimbin for operators to Murwillumbah

# Rainbow Ridge Spring Fair

## and Open Day

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September  
10am - 3pm

Meet the teachers and open classrooms  
Craft stall and activities  
Children's performances  
Maypole dancing and Music  
Delicious fresh food, drinks and coffee

279 Lillian Rock Rd, Lillian Rock NSW 2480 - 66897033

# Into space with early learning

by Carina, Annalyce, May, Isabella and Charlotte, educators of Nimbin Early Learning Centre

We went on an exciting adventure across the road to the Nimbin Central School for 'Fete of Learning' and it has been the talk of the Centre ever since.

The children really enjoyed learning new things to gain rocks to spend at the café.

We also have been doing a lot of learning regarding space. We made our very own space ship using foil and for craft we made papier maché planets to display in our space ship.

Outside we have been using a lot of our physical ability to climb the rock wall and rope ladder, then balance across the stepping stones onto the bike track.

For Book Week we had two "dress up and bring your favourite book to school" days. Everyone loved dressing up. We had our very own Old McDonald farm dress-up.

Please feel free to call the Centre on 6689-0142. We are open Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm.



## Nimbin Community Preschool



**Competent Collaborative Community**

**Enrolments available now**

Preschool: Nimbin A&I Showgrounds, Cecil St.  
Phone/Fax: (02) 6689 1203  
Email: [nimbinpreschool.director@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinpreschool.director@gmail.com)

# Metal machine monster



This term at Tuntable Preschool, one of our projects has taken on a life of its own.

It started as an idea to make a transformer robot dinosaur to replace our ageing scarecrow robot.

"It can be a T-rex that turns into a car," was Leo's plan. More ideas were suggested as we explored different ideas. That it can fly, swim under water, turn into a spider and live in a volcano.

One of the consistent thoughts was that it had to be strong and that the strongest building material for a transformer robot dinosaur was metal. And so began our metal machine sculpture.

As part of the first step we wove some heavy chain onto a long metal rod and added some legs, Mikayla observed, "It looks like a skeleton. A dinosaur skeleton!"

Since then we have been slowly working out ways to attach our various switches and cogs and cooling fans. And solving balance and stability issues.

We have used a hacksaw to cut threaded rod to make stabiliser bars and attached them into chains. We have been using pliers to cut and weave with wire. We've used spanners and shifters to tighten and loosen nuts.

Most interestingly it has a key in an ignition switch and the children are discussing what will happen when you turn the key when the sculpture is fully wired up!

## Cawongla Playhouse

Tuesdays  
Wednesdays  
Thursdays  
Enrolling ages 2 ½ - 5



5325 Kyogle Road  
Near Cawongla Shop  
6633 7167 [cawonglaplayhouse.office@gmail.com](mailto:cawonglaplayhouse.office@gmail.com)

# Playhouse a unique space for children

by Stephen Gallen

Cawongla Playhouse is a truly unique space for children. What is it that makes it what it is?

It's on Wiyabal country, on the way to Githabul country, but how to describe the culture and the history? What makes it special to children and their families?

Having only just started as the new teacher and education director at the preschool, I am only at the beginning of my journey into learning the answers to these questions myself.

Definitely what stands out most on a first visit are the huge natural grounds and gardens, with many varied interesting spaces to inhabit, to run and to learn in, with hills, gardens, trees to climb.

But maybe it's best to let the children tell you about this space and what it can mean. For many when asked what they value most about preschool the answer is clear: "The sandpit."

Framed by rocks and gardens, it's an amazing space to explore, to fight with dinosaurs, to build some worlds.

Andi wants you to know, "We love preschool. It has a big castle with a slide and a ladder, a comfy couch and a craft table." Charlie would like to point out that the preschool has "swings and a slide, and tell a teacher if you want to climb a tree."

For all of the children though, what Cawongla Playhouse is about most is about the people who've been a part of it. For Harry, his favourite thing is to "play dinosaurs with River," while for River, it's "playing dinosaurs with Harry".

When asked about preschool, the children have told me about Byron and Tallulah and all the friends who've moved on and off into the world... gone but not forgotten. As Sage says, "I loved playing dress-ups and pirates with Byron."

What makes a place? The stories, the histories, the people and the lives lived.

You're invited to the annual

# TUNTABLE FALLS

PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL

## FETE AND OPEN DAY

FOOD \* ART \* MUSIC \* FUN

10 am - 3 pm

SATURDAY 27th OF OCT



## FAIR TO WELCOME SPRING



by Rose Shearer

As the days are getting longer and warmer, the children at Rainbow Ridge Steiner School are dusting off the Maypole ribbons and filling the classrooms with songs of Spring.

The annual Spring Fair & Open Day will be held again on Saturday 15th September, from 10am to 3pm. The school, nestled in amongst the forests of Lillian Rock, will be open to the public and will showcase a huge variety of activities and performances, as well as being a fun family day out for all.

There will be a wide selection of savoury and sweet foods available, herbal teas and fresh barista coffee. So, whether you're just dropping by for a quick morning tea stop or staying for lunch, there will be something to cater for everyone.

The children will be performing some of the songs they have learnt this term, as well as calling in the Spring with different types of maypole dancing. There will be craft activities,

flower garland making, crystals to dig for, and the children who learn string instruments will perform as part of the school's ensemble.

The kindy children will get the opportunity to share their songs and circle rhymes, and there will be an open mic stage in the afternoon where the parents can show off their musical talents.

All the classrooms will be open at 2pm giving parents, friends and family the opportunity to meet with the teachers and check out the children's amazing work that will be on display. Our brand new office administration building that was completed at the beginning of this term will also be open to the public.

Not only is this sure to be a fantastic and enjoyable day for the Rainbow Ridge community, it is the school's major fundraising event for the year. The sun will be shining with music and laughter in the air, so come down and experience the Rainbow Ridge Spring Fair!

## Good times for public ed

Nimbin Central school students Kai, Jovian and Julian (pictured) rocked in celebration of public education when they took to the stage at the Centenary celebration dinner for the NSW Teachers Federation held in Lismore.

The Federation's senior vice-president Henry Rajendra exhorted the teachers and community members present to protect the right of every child, from every background, to a good education with equitable funding.

He said that currently private schools receive 80% of educational funding and public schools only 20% meaning that support for literacy and special needs is lacking in many cases.

### The Write Stuff

At a Book Week author visit, Jesse Blackadder inspired many young writers to extend and enrich their story ideas.

Jesse brought the Story Board bus, tipis and photo booth as part of the free Byron Writers Festival schools program.

She shared photos of the exciting journeys that have inspired her books for young readers spanning the Antarctic, the Kimberleys, Dubai and Alaska.



At Nimbin Central's Fete of Learning, above: the Hoola Hoop Meditation workshop, and below: the Future Plants workshop.



# Forever the teacher

by Nicole Devery

I always imagined that when I had children they would go to school, as I did, in a smart little uniform with shiny black shoes.

How funny it is when you actually have a child, so many things are not at all how you thought it was going to be; the length of breastfeeding, the idea of co-sleeping, education, the list goes on.

I chose Tuntable Falls Community Primary School for its gentle introduction into the education system.

In kindergarten, my son only left me for four days, so I was able to keep him at home for that little bit longer. He needed that.

Teaching and learning was able to be and still is set to his own pace, needs and learning style. This is accomplished through the small class sizes and the nurturing teaching styles adopted here.

Living in Nimbin gave us the opportunity to select from a wide variety of wonderful schools that have flourished in this area.

I love that at school, my son gets to walk and play with the earth beneath his feet. The rainforest and creek-bed are the playground where his imagination can be inspired.



Exceptionally gifted classroom and specialty teachers provide him with an enriched curriculum of engaging literacy and numeracy activities as well as unique extra curricular learning experiences.

His week is filled with educational skill building fun such as circus skills, the philosophical beliefs and movement used in Karate, as well as hands on science experiments, drama, music, art and sustainable environmental education,

which is held in our wonderful vegetable garden.

The school is a parent-run school where I can actually be present on my child's learning journey. It encourages the idea of a community, where grandparents, younger siblings and extended family are all welcomed and encouraged to have daily involvement.

Parent input is highly valued, and skills can be utilised and shared. I can still be my son's teacher.

### French Corner

by Aurelie Billot

Learning a new language involves mental activity, cultural awareness and a lot of fun! Starting with French you will discover new sounds and will at times laugh out loud when trying to pronounce typical French sounds. It is not that intuitive to make sounds that do not exist in English and sometimes even your ears can't discriminate two close sounds, making them difficult to reproduce.

Watching the funny Catherine Tate show called 'The Offensive Translator' I couldn't help laughing at what are the typical French sounds to Anglophones: nasal sounds! Can you make the 'an', 'on' and 'in' French sounds?

A bit of practice is sometimes necessary to make an accurate distinction and be able to pronounce words properly. It is also the case for the 'é', the 'u' and the 'r' sounds.

Yes, each language has its challenges and I reckon 'h' sound and 'th' sounds are difficult for French natives at the beginning. To us 'h' is always silent so it is a real challenge to actually get it right at all times. We sometimes forget it or even sometimes feel like adding an 'h' when not necessary... leading to funny sentences such as "could you put some (h)air in my tyres?" (oops, I



pronounced the 'h'...)

The opposite exists for Anglophones speaking French. Saying "Champs Elysées" is not that easy for many reasons: 1) the nasal sound 'an' and the sound 'é'; 2) we don't pronounce the plural 's' and most final consonants; 3) the existence of a linking sound between the two words... you should say 'chanzélizé'

When visiting Australia, it also took me a little while and a lot of practise to be able to say "how are you going?" the Australian way... sort of a "Hawa ya goin" said with the back of the mouth. Not a natural thing to do for a French native, as we usually create sounds using the front and the middle of the mouth.

Finally, getting the right intonation is important. English is difficult for the French due to distressed syllables. Long syllables and short ones is a foreign concept to French language.

You should spend the same amount of time on each syllable in French but if you don't it will never affect the meaning of the word, which is not the case at all with

English. I remember saying in my class "take a sheet of paper" but my "ee" sound was too short... and I could see many smiles on my polite students' faces... Oh my!

What is important with French pronunciation is to take your time, forget about the distressed syllables and try to make the sounds as best you can.

Adults very often want to say the words perfectly or fear making mistakes. They may feel a bit uncomfortable not being able to pronounce some words properly. If you are a beginner, just be gentle on yourself, allow some time for your ears and mouth to do what they have never been exposed to nor required to do.

Focus on being understood rather than getting the perfect native sound. Just acknowledge that this will improve with time and practice.

After all, we learn a language to be able to communicate! Whether you have a strong or slight accent doesn't matter as long as you can be understood. For your information French with an English accent sounds really nice, so be proud of your accent and keep speaking in French, shamelessly!

*Douce France, French Language Centre offers private/ small group tuition, conversation classes and Immersion programs to adults, HSC students and homeschoolers. Visit: [www.douce-france.com.au](http://www.douce-france.com.au) or email: [douce-france@yahoo.com.au](mailto:douce-france@yahoo.com.au)*